

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

## China Overland Trade Report.

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### BIRTH.

At 4, Knutsford Terrace, on the 8th inst., the wife of ALEX. MACKENZIE, of a daughter. [1586]

### DEATH.

On the 9th inst.; at Swatow, drowned while bathing, DAVID KIRKLAND SLIMAN. Deeply regretted. [1601]

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 8th June arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 9th July (31 days); the English mail of the 11th June arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Thames*, on the 9th July (28 days); the American mail of the 17th June arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 13th July (26 days); and the Canadian mail of the 26th June arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 14th July (18 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Messrs. Bell and Neville, of the Blackburn Commercial Mission, left by the *Java* for Shanghai, whence they proceed homewards via Canada.

A Tokyo despatch of the 23th June states that Shimizu (Shizuoka prefecture), and Yokkaichi and Nanao (Noto province), have been added to the list of special ports for export and import. They will be opened on the 1st August.

Colonel Buck, the new American Minister to Japan, and Mrs. Buck arrived at Yokohama on 28th June by the *Peru*.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps held on the 5th July Mr. Cecil Holliday was unanimously elected Commandant of the Corps.

News reaches the *N. C. Daily News* from Yokohama that a petition is going to be presented to the Privy Council for leave to appeal against the decision in the Carew case.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) learn that H.E. Sheng has sold his cotton mills on the Point Road to an English syndicate, through Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co., for T's. 2,600,000.

H.E. Huang Chun-hsien, former Consul-General at Singapore, who was objected to by Germany as Chinese Envoy last year, has been appointed Salt Intendant of the Changsha and Paoning prefectures of Hunan province.

A Victoria, B.C., telegram of 19th June states that the Japanese Consul there has been instructed to protest against the Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada giving his assent to the British Columbia Oriental Labour Bill, so far as it relates to the exclusion of Japanese.

The following telegram is published in the *Gazette*:—"Governor, Hongkong. Korean Government has notified officially that ports of Chenampo and Mokpo are open to foreign trade, 1st October. MACDONALD." The same notification reaches as through Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The many friends of Mr. J. N. Jordan, H.M.'s Consul-General in Korea, will be pleased to learn that his name is included in the list of Jubilee honours, Her Majesty having conferred upon him the distinction of a C.M.G. Mr. Jordan's long service in Peking more than deserved this honour, on which we heartily congratulate him.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 8th July says:—"We published on the 22nd of June a Reuter's telegram, dated London, 21st June, stating that M. Gérard had signed a convention with China giving France fresh commercial and political advantages in South-west China, including the right to work mines in Chinese territory. We now learn on good authority from Peking that there is no foundation for the statement, except that the French Minister had been trying unsuccessfully to put through some such agreement."

The Emperor and Dowager Empress in return for the handsome presents brought them by the Special Russian Ambassadors from the Czar and Czarina are now sending a large number of costly and rare bronzes, jadestone utensils, enamels, etc., as well as sable robes lined with Chinese cloth of gold, to the Czar and Czarina. The presents were packed in 120 cases and were brought down by the *Hsinechi* on her last trip from Tientsin. When the *Hsinechi* arrived at Woosung she transhipped the Imperial presents on board a Russian Volunteer steamer to be carried to Odessa. The presents are under the charge of a special Russian military officer belonging to the suite of Prince Uchtomsky.—*N. C. Daily News*.

H.E. Lu Hai-nan, Minister-designate for Germany and Austria, has been appointed, by special edict, an Expectant Officer of the 4th Metropolitan rank. This will put him on terms of equality with Viceroys and Governors of provinces and gives him the privilege of memorialising direct to the Throne, instead of through the Tsungli Yamen. H.E. will leave Peking some time this month, and, having been granted a month's leave to visit his home in Shantung province, will not start for Germany before September next. H.E.'s suite will consist of thirty secretaries, interpreters, and attaches.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It is reported that the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung who is most anxious to make a beginning of the Hankow-Peking—to be known hereafter as the Lu-Han—Railway (abbreviated from Lukou Bridge, in the western suburbs of Peking, and Hankow) has lately given orders to break ground at Hankow for the proposed railway on the first day of the ensuing autumn. An expectant prefect, named Chu Chih-tsèh, a deputy assistant Director of the Lu-Han Railway, is now in Hankow and has already selected a large building, connected with the Temple of the Thunder god, in Hankow, to be the future headquarters of the Railway in that port.—*N. C. Daily News*.

At the consecration of the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Tientsin M. Gerard, the French Minister, made a speech, of which we translate the following summary from the *Messenger de Chine*:—"Having thanked those present for their attendance he said that three things distinguished the celebration. (1) It was made in memory of their unfortunate countrywomen who were massacred in 1870. That church had been built upon their very graves; it was a lasting monument erected to their memory. (2) The massacre was an outrage upon the christian world. As the Chinese Government had allowed the re-building of that sacred monument satisfaction had been given to the Christians, which enabled them to pardon and forget the terrible event of 1870. (3) It was to be hoped that such a massacre would never be repeated. The Chinese Government had ended by recognising that Christianity would be an important factor in the civilisation of China and that the Empire had already benefited by it."

It is reported in the native circles that the German Minister at Peking is consulting with the Tsungli Yamen for the use of Tung-chung-kow, close to Foochow, as a naval station in the East. Some of the Chinese suppose the Tsungli Yamen will entertain the proposition, as no reward has, as yet, been given to Germany for her participation in the movement for the retrocession to China of the Liaotung peninsula. They think further that it would be better for China to allow the proposition, on the ground that if Germany has a naval station in Tung-chung-kow it will naturally prohibit the more arrogant intrusion of the French into Kwangsi and Yunnan provinces, and at the same time the Japanese approach to the mainland of China by Formosa. They describe the port as a better naval station than Amoy, and to be capable of holding a large number of men-of-war. It will be remembered that the port was accurately surveyed by a German man-of-war in the beginning of this year.—*China Gazette*.



## DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES AND THE WEST RIVER TRADE.

While there can be no doubt that the opening of the West River will lead to a large expansion of trade in foreign goods, it is to be feared that, unless strong pressure be brought to bear in order to secure equal treatment for Chinese and foreigners, the latter will very soon be ousted from all direct share in the business of distribution. This is what has happened or is happening at most of the other treaty ports. As Mr. BRENNAN points out in his recent report, the importation of foreign goods into China takes place almost entirely through the British colony of Hongkong in the south and through the treaty port of Shanghai; from these two great entrepôts of the China trade all the other ports are supplied, and at the outports the foreign merchant is ceasing to exist. The Chinese merchant naturally possesses advantages in his own country, and so long as those advantages are exercised fairly no ground of objection exists, but any attempt to reinforce them by an unfair discrimination against foreigners should be resisted to the utmost. The opportunity for such resistance presents itself at Wuchow, where the *modus operandi* by which foreigners are to be eliminated from the local trade has been made quite plain. A Chinese Company has been formed to farm the collection of lekin on kerosine and matches in Kwangsi, and the same Company is also an importing concern. It is intended ultimately to extend the Company's operations to piece goods and other articles of import, but for the present kerosine and matches alone are affected. How the arrangement is to be made to cut the foreigner's throat we will proceed to show. The Company pays the nominal sum of \$10,000 per annum for the privilege of collecting the lekin payable throughout the province on the two articles mentioned. On kerosine the lekin is 30 cents per case and on matches 10 per cent. The import of kerosine is estimated at 200,000 cases, which should yield a lekin revenue of \$60,000, and that of matches also at 200,000 cases, which should yield \$40,000, making a total of \$100,000, as against the \$10,000 paid by the Company. To the latter sum must be added the expenses of collection, and, no doubt, a division of the profits with the officials, but after making all allowances on these accounts it will be seen that an ample margin must remain which will enable the Company to sell its own imports at rates to undercut the foreigner. The latter has to pay 5 per cent. import duty, 2½ per cent. transit duty if the goods are sent into the interior, and on kerosine 30 cents per case for lekin, making in all say 45 cents, while the Chinese Company pays simply the 5 per cent. import duty, say 10 cents, to the Foreign Customs, and all other charges are covered by the lump sum of \$10,000 per annum, no matter what quantity of goods may be imported, so that if the estimate of the import of kerosine and matches be anywhere near the mark, the amount paid to the Government on each case must be somewhere in the neighbourhood of a quarter, and certainly much less than half, that paid by the foreigner. Competition on the part of the latter is under such circumstances impossible. There is also a regulation, authorised by the Government of Kwangsi, by which all goods must bear a ticket certifying that they have paid the lekin, and without this ticket goods cannot be sold. The working of this regulation is such, we understand, as to place

foreigners at a disadvantage, even if the question of the difference in the duty payable did not exist. The object of the whole arrangement is in effect to give to the Chinese company a monopoly of the entire import trade of the province in the two articles of kerosine and matches, and it is understood that the monopoly will ultimately be extended to all other classes of imports. The matter is one that should command the attention of the Chamber of Commerce and be strongly represented to the Government. An analogy exists between this case and that of the preferential duties levied on junk borne goods at Canton. The arrangement may not for the time being diminish the volume of the trade, but it shuts out the foreigners from participation in it. Some time ago a combination was formed at Pakhoi to shut out a French line of steamers from participation in the carrying trade of that port, but by the prompt action of the French diplomatic authorities the combination was broken up and payment of an indemnity for the loss of business to the French Company agreed to. A combination to exclude foreigners from the distribution trade is equally illegal, being opposed both to the spirit and letter of the treaties, and ought to be broken up as readily. At Canton, the collection of lekin on kerosine is also farmed out, but there the lekin farmers are not themselves importers, and the tax is levied equally on the oil imported by Chinese and on that imported by foreigners. Under those circumstances we may dispute the legality of the tax *in toto*, but, admitting the tax, there is no complaint to be made as to its incidence. At Wuchow, on the other hand, not only may objection be taken to the tax itself—(though the Foreign Powers have unfortunately given away their case on that point)—but it is grossly unfair in its incidence, being levied in full on goods in the hands of foreigners while a powerful Chinese Company is allowed to compound for it by the payment of a comparatively small lump sum per annum and so secure a monopoly of the whole trade. The full and complete remedy for such abuses throughout the whole country would be to replace the present lekin collectorate by a foreign administration on the model of the foreign maritime customs, but as that is a reform not likely to be secured very soon the glaring case of Kwangsi ought to be dealt with at once on its own merits.

## FRENCH DESIGNS ON HAINAN

### I.

In a recent issue we published a letter from a Hoihow correspondent in which it was stated that a strong opinion was entertained by the Chinese that the French were only awaiting a good opportunity to take the island of Hainan under the fostering care of the tricolour, and particulars were given of a visit of the French flagship *Bayard* to Yulingkang Bay, and certain surveying operations carried out there, which seemed to lend support to that opinion. In its issue of the 3rd July the *Avenir du Tonkin* gives a translation of our correspondent's remarks on the subject, with a running commentary, and so far from contradicting or throwing doubt on the reports current as to French intentions, our contemporary contents itself by expressing the hope that the reports may be true, though the writer does not appear to have any independent information as to whether they are so or not. It is time, he says, that

France reaped her reward for the services she recently rendered to China in connection with the conclusion of peace with Japan and the financial assistance she lent in the payments on account of the war indemnity. All the other Powers that have interests to safeguard in China, the article continues, "have known how to help themselves to a slice of the coveted cake, even those who had no claim on the liberality of the Celestial Empire. Russia has extended herself in Manchuria, the English, under the pretext of a rectification of the frontier, have largely aggrandised themselves on the Burmese frontier, and even Germany has extorted concessions. We alone have up to the present obtained nothing. The possession of the island of Hainan would be of capital importance to us. Not only would it be of great assistance in assuring tranquillity throughout the Gulf of Tonkin, but it would give us, on the south coast of China, a strategic point that would counterbalance Hongkong. We have already committed the fault, twelve years ago, of letting Formosa and the Pescadores slip through our fingers; let us not allow to be appropriated by others, who do not share our foolish scruples, a territory which would greatly consolidate our position in Indo-China. Moreover, as it is only an island that is in question, and not a strip of Continental territory, it would not be difficult for our diplomatists to obtain this concession from the Court of Peking." On the latter point at all events our contemporary is mistaken. The Court of Peking will make no concession of territory, whether on the Continent or in her island possessions, save under severe pressure. She will certainly not make France a present of Hainan if she can help it. In the event, however, of such a transaction being put through, we do not know that Great Britain would have any more reason to protest than she had in the case of Japan's acquisition of Formosa. Indeed, if it were not for France's declared policy of shutting out British trade wherever possible we might cheerfully welcome the transfer of any portion of Chinese territory to the tricolour, as promising a more enlightened administration, an amelioration of the condition of the people, and an increased commerce. So long, however, as France pursues her policy of building up a wall of differential tariffs for the exclusion of British trade it cannot be expected that her schemes of territorial aggrandisement should be regarded otherwise than coldly by Great Britain. As to the strategical importance of Hainan as a counterpoise to Hongkong, a point to which our Tonkin contemporary appears to attach some importance, we could afford to regard the matter with equanimity from that point of view.

### II.

As we remarked a few days ago, the British Government would probably raise little objection to the acquisition of Hainan by France, if such a step were really in contemplation. The assurances of our Tonkin contemporary notwithstanding, however, we do not believe the French Government have any intention of asking for the island. If they were negotiating for such a concession, they would hardly, we think, be withdrawing a large part of their already slender European force from Indo-China, which is actually the fact. Our Gallic friends are not so badly informed but that they have ascertained the probable capabilities and known resources of the island in question. They are aware that beyond



the breeding of pigs and poultry, the production of betel and cocoa-nut, it produces little for export, and that its receptive power as a market for imports is very limited indeed. The climate is extremely malarious in most parts and in few places is it at all adapted for even the temporary residence of Europeans. It possesses valuable deposits of copper, but the climate of the spot where the mines exist is so deadly that few miners will face it for long. No doubt there are other mineral deposits, but the working of them would languish for the same reason. Like Formosa, Hainan is destitute of any really good harbours, more especially on the northern coast; and, unlike the Beautiful Island, its resources do not atone for this deficiency. The interior also resembles that of Formosa, being made up of lofty mountains and well nigh impenetrable forests. It is true that the aborigines of Hainan are less fierce and formidable than the native Formosans, but the climate is a deadlier foe to its reclamation, and our French friends are not so fond of tropical jungles that they would rush to the new country to cultivate and reclaim. The real truth is that the French are not a colonising people. They love *la belle France* too devotedly ever to willingly leave her, and her soil is so bountiful and her sons are so thrifty that there is not the same stern necessity that drives forth the Anglo-Saxon to seek a new home in distant lands.

Yet, strange to say, while there are absent in France the causes that scatter the younger members of half the families in Great Britain the world over in search of fame or fortune, the successive Governments of the French Republic have, for some occult reason, embarked upon a career of conquest in remote parts of Asia and Africa, and have built up a colonial Empire of enormous extent, though, it must be confessed, of very limited utility considering the vast drain it is proving on their resources. Within the last quarter of a century they have acquired the whole of Indo-China with the exception of Siam, on which it is believed they meditate designs, while in Africa they have annexed large provinces, the value of which has to be demonstrated, to say nothing of Madagascar, the second largest island in world. So far as area goes the Frenchman's pride may be fully gratified when he regards the map of the world. He has a goodly heritage, and ample room and verge for a redundant population. But unfortunately the population of France is not redundant and is not growing. There is no incentive to her sons to cross the stormy seas in search of a competence, and, as a matter of fact, they loathe the necessity, arising sometimes from dissolute living or reckless extravagance, that compels them to accept office in these lands. French merchants or traders rarely indeed can be induced to quit the shores of their native country, and are well content to conduct their export trade through foreign agents and correspondents. Thus it comes to pass that the trade of French colonies is mainly carried on by aliens and foreigners, and that the swarm of ill paid officials have little interest in the country and generally scheme hard to get back to their native land at the earliest opportunity. In spite therefore of tariffs framed to rigorously exclude all foreign imports, there is practically no French trade in French colonies, and little real progress is seen in any of them. In the hands of a more enterprising and liberal Administration Tonkin would soon prove a valuable prize, but it is almost stationary, and Saigon, with all its natural advantages, is declining as a port, owing to

the restrictive tariff which fetters its trade. Viewed in the light of the utter failure of the French Government to make their colonies pay, and the unaccountable indifference of French merchants to the loss of opportunities for trade, the proposal to add another burden to the back of patient France seems strangely foolish, and only explainable by the disease known as earth hunger, with which our neighbours allege that England is so badly afflicted.

We plead guilty to the charge in a degree, for it must be confessed that we joined in the scramble for land in Africa, but we at least had a definite purpose in view. In South Africa there is a great stretch of country in which the white man can make a comfortable home, and in the course of the close-coming twentieth century millions of Britons and Hollanders will found thriving cities and provinces where now the savage and the beast of prey roam unchecked. Seeing a disposition on the part of most European Powers to appropriate all the countries occupied by savage man without a settled government, the British Government was perforce, by pressure of circumstances and the persuasion of the colonists, induced to extend protectorates over adjacent states and in some cases to acquire new colonies rather than see their present territories hemmed in by new and unwelcome neighbours. Some of our French contemporaries accuse us of the widest ambition, and the *Paris Soleil* thus concludes a study of what it believes to be British aims, namely, the founding of an Empire extending from Alexandria to Capetown:—"So far the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have resisted British absorption. But it is certain that the two Republics will sooner or later be drawn into the orbit of English domination unless they find in Europe powerful and effective support. The dream of English Imperialism from the Cape to Alexandria is no longer a chimera. It becomes a reality. During the final years of the century about to close England will have succeeded in carving out for herself in Africa, from end to end of the continent, an empire of which the power of production and consumption will equal if not exceed, in a near future, that of the Indian Empire." The *Paris Journal* credits us, it will be seen, with the fixed intention of remaining in Egypt, though we are pledged to ultimately withdraw. For the rest the prophecy may prove correct, but it will be due, not to the scheming of the British Government—which has always been exceedingly loth to accept new responsibilities, and has voluntarily surrendered many rich countries rather than incur new burdens—but to the colonising genius of the Anglo-Saxon race. The British Government has refused to accept Formosa, would almost as certainly decline Hainan, and has never sought territorial aggrandisement at the expense of China, nor would England now wish to act the part of dog in the manager, and seek to prevent French expansion; but British merchants naturally regard the establishment of French rule in any country with scant favour, since the hoisting of the tricolour too surely means another market closed to British trade.

The adjourned general meeting of the Central Stores, Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 28th June, Capt. Parker presiding. The report of the Investigation Committee was presented and adopted, and after an animated discussion resolutions were carried requesting the Directors to retire, and appointing Messrs. J. A. Stewart, F. E. Reilly, and W. Bell on the Board.

#### SEPARATION OF THE OFFICES OF CONSUL-GENERAL AND JUDGE AT SHANGHAI.

The last mail brought the intelligence that the Foreign Office has made up its mind that the present system of British representation in Shanghai, by which the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court is also Consul-General, is a failure and must not be continued after Sir NICHOLAS HANNEN'S retirement from the joint offices. The Shanghai community, who have consistently protested against the amalgamation of the offices as ill-judged and not conducive to British interests, will derive considerable satisfaction from this announcement. Probably the Foreign Office would in the long run have yielded to local opinion in this matter, even had Mr. BYRON BRENNAN in his recent report not commented so strongly upon it, but that officer certainly merits thanks for the clear and conclusive manner in which he states the case. It is not unlikely, indeed, that that report was the immediate cause of the decision now arrived at, which removes the matter from the realm of doubt. Under the present regime, Mr. BRENNAN says, at the very time that the assistance and advice of the Consul-General would be of most value he feels compelled to keep in the background lest his intervention might be suspected of impairing his judicial impartiality at a later stage of the proceedings. "I can scarcely imagine," the report continues, "any important case where, in his capacity of Consul-General, the officer in the post can now espouse the cause of his countrymen with that energy and show of determination that are necessary when fighting our people's battles, and without which any intervention is unavailing. Whatever may be the question in dispute between a British subject and a native merchant, or, perhaps, a Chinese official, the attempt to obtain redress is futile if we merely leave our countryman to his own resources. He has not access except through his Consul to the Chinese courts of justice and he can look for no measure of justice unless the Chinese judge knows that the Consul is backing up his national. From the very nature of the case a Consul must show some partisanship and proceed in a way which would be unbecoming in an officer holding high judicial office. . . . Our Chief Judge cannot allow himself to be involved in his capacity of Consul-General in any affair that may have to be unravelled before him sitting as Chief Judge, and where there is a prospect of such a case arising the officer sinks the Consul-General in order to keep himself uncommitted and ready to perform in his other rôle. Our interests in China require far too much pushing and bolstering to admit of indulging in such refinement of feeling, and the Consul-General should be free to back up British interests to his utmost, without being troubled with any thought about judicial impartiality." Mr. BRENNAN quotes a case cited by the Committee of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association illustrative of the inconvenience of the amalgamation of the two offices, that of MAJOR V. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., in which both parties invoked the assistance of the same Chief Judge and Consul-General in obtaining evidence from the Chinese authorities in support of their respective cases, the dispute turning on the right of riparian owners to pre-empt the foreshore. The case



of BENNETT v. the Chinese Government, now proceeding at Shanghai, might also be cited in the same connection. As the Committee of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association say, "The inconvenience is obvious of an authority who has been called upon, *bona fide* and as a duty, in one capacity, to vigorously support a contention, to be called upon, in another capacity, to sit judicially to decide whether such contention is right."

#### SILVER AND COPPER EXCHANGE IN CHINA.

In his address delivered at the annual meeting of the Bimetallic League Mr. GEO. JAMIESON said the adjustment of prices, consequent on the appreciation of gold, had, as a matter of fact, been effected by gold prices giving way. "Speaking generally, silver prices of commodities had remained steady, and gold prices had fallen. This was strictly true up to a comparatively recent date, and even yet four-fifths of the adjustment was due to the fall in gold prices, and not more than a fifth to a rise in silver prices." It appears probable, however, that in China we are now on the eve of a considerable rise in silver prices and that the description given by Mr. JAMIESON of the relative fall in gold prices and rise in silver prices will not much longer pass as accurate. There has already been a marked rise of silver prices in Japan, and a movement in the same direction is setting in in China. In the former country the rise has been ascribed to commercial expansion and the developments following upon the waging of a successful foreign war, while in China the scarcity of copper cash, the real currency of the country, is said to be the reason, but the main factor in both cases, we take it, is that silver is now actually declining in purchasing power and that its depreciation is making itself felt in the Orient as well as in the Occident. The Commissioner of Customs at Hankow, in his report for last year, writes:—"A few years ago a dollar was worth nearly 1,200 cash. The lowest rate it touched in 1896 was about 840, and signs are not wanting that in the near future it will be worth a great deal less. Europeans in receipt of salaries paid in silver who a few years ago could save, and entertain reasonable hopes of some day retiring, now find it difficult to meet current expenditure. The cheapness of silver with regard to gold has hitherto almost entirely affected foreign residents, but now even native servants, who are paid in silver, find their pittance rapidly dwindling, and the complaint is becoming frequent that after years of service their wages are insufficient to buy rice." The same tale comes from all parts of China. The scarcity of copper cash is assigned as the principle cause, but it is also said that prices of commodities in cash are lower than they were, and that if a dollar will purchase fewer cash than formerly the cash will go further, and that the increased cost of living is not in exact proportion to the fluctuations in the dollar and cash exchange. After making due allowance for the increased purchasing power of cash, however, the fact remains that even in China, which is regarded as one of the chief strongholds of silver, a dollar does not go so far as it used to do. The fact is one to be noted and reckoned with by every one interested in commercial or industrial undertakings in China. Mr. BYRON BRENNAN in his recently published report says, referring to the cotton industry, that

"whether Shanghai can compete with Manchester depends as much on copper as on silver." In that case the advantage China is supposed to possess by reason of the fall in the gold value of silver may prove illusory.

#### CHINESE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS.

It is quite characteristic of the Chinese officials that they should at any time sacrifice the substance for the shadow or pay a high price for the maintenance of an idea. The new railroad from Tientsin to Peking seems to afford an illustration of this idiosyncrasy. According to a correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary who has made the journey over this line, both directness and the chance of a good intermediate traffic have been surrendered in order to carry the railway in a particular direction, whether to avoid Imperial grounds or to omit populous cities where a chance of opposition might possibly have been expected we are unable to say. The correspondent states, however, that the road passes through a desolate and dreary country—"sandy, sparse, and stunted vegetation, and the villages in sight are far away. Some of the Imperial grounds are near at hand, but there is little to be seen of them from the cars. A short distance from Fengtai the road, which at that point had been nearly S.W. and N.E., turned to the left almost at a right angle towards the S.E., showing that the line is far from a direct one from Tientsin to Peking." He goes on to remark that if a straight line had been ruled across the map between the port and the capital it would not only have shortened the distance very considerably but that the road would then have passed through a better country and nearer some important towns. As it is, he says, "the western half of the road is little better than a desert, and throughout the entire distance it appears to have been an object to avoid all towns and villages as much as possible." It is to be hoped that the great trunk line from Peking to Hankow, and from Wuchang to Canton, will not be constructed on the same principle, or the results, in a financial sense, will hardly be as satisfactory as have been predicted. It would almost seem as though the responsible authorities at Peking had specially selected the railway route in order to convey to strangers the most unfavourable impression possible with a view to induce the conclusion that the country is not worth conquest. That district of Chihli lying between the coast and Peking is undoubtedly poor and barren looking, and the Imperial Government would evidently desire it to be thought that the way to the capital of the Son of Heaven runs through something resembling a desert. If this is really the case the idea is of course very puerile, but the mandarins are often extremely childish. But whether with this idea or owing to causes before suggested, the deviation from the obvious course appears to have been made without any sound reason. At the same time it is some satisfaction to the friends of progress in this most backward Empire to hear that it is at length possible to accomplish the journey from Tientsin to Peking in some four hours and with a certain degree of comfort instead of being penned up for a couple of days in a frowsy boat or shaken to pieces on a wretched apology for a road for a whole long day. The connection of the China metropolis with its port by railway is an event of the highest importance, and in the means of inter-communication should mark the commencement of a new era in the Empire.

#### JAPAN AND THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.

The reply of the United States Government to the protest of Japan against the proposed annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the American Republic seems to indicate a determination to persevere with that policy. Senator SHERMAN, State Secretary, in replying to Japan, declares that American annexation of the group will in no wise prejudice the legitimate interests of Japan, or of any other Power in the Pacific, but that he cannot admit any suggestions for the maintenance of the *status quo*. That is to say, the United States does not desire to do anything that will be detrimental to any existing interests in Hawaii, but she denies the right of Japan or any other Power to question her action there, even if such action amounts to annexation of the islands. This is how we read the brief *résumé* of Senator SHERMAN's reply given us through REUTER. At first it looked rather as though the Senate and House of Representatives were dubious as to the line of action to be taken, and that President MCKINLEY might have been a little too previous. The present message evidently indicates more assurance at Washington, and that the President in proposing annexation of the little Pacific ex-kingdom had felt the pulse of the country. As we mentioned on a previous occasion, American interests are more considerable in Hawaii than those of either Great Britain or Germany, and the American residents have long clamoured for the protection of the Stars and Stripes.

The reply to Japan is no doubt regarded in the United States as both full and satisfactory, and, confident in their own determination to act justly with regard to vested interests, the Washington Government consider it sufficient. The Japanese Government may, however, not be equally content. Their idea of what are Japan's "legitimate interests" in Hawaii probably is the very opposite of that entertained at Washington. The United States Government, for instance, will no doubt be of a very similar opinion to the Hawaiian Government with regard to the right of Japan to continue to send shiploads of Japanese labourers to Honolulu. The Tokyo Government, on the other hand, will contend that Japan has been invited to send emigrants to the islands, and that to suddenly refuse them admission without adequate reason is a breach of the existing treaties which cannot be disregarded even by a Power proposing to take over the administration of the country. Japan will not, of course, put forward any claim to the islands for herself, though there is some likelihood that she cherished an ambition to succeed the line of native rulers recently deposed. There is, however, little chance of the protest being carried much further. Japan will not venture to oppose the American Republic, if once it is apparent that it has definitely made up its mind, but she may sulk somewhat over the check given to her hoped-for expansion in the Pacific, the field of action plainly laid down by her statesmen.

Some smart work in road repairing is reported on the Tientsin-Peking Railway route. There was a very severe rain and hail storm accompanied by thunder on the afternoon of the 12th June near Peking, which damaged a portion of the railway bed. Workmen, however, were at once put to repairing the damages, so that when a few hours later the Tientsin train arrived the bed had been filled in and the rails laid, causing no delay to the train.



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## A SCANDAL IN THE POLICE FORCE.

We feel ourselves bound, in the interests of the public service, to make known a painful rumour which has been most persistently bruited in the colony during the last few days. From time to time one hears rumours of an extraordinary nature which have absolutely no stable foundation to support them and they are soon dissipated and forgotten; but in the present instance the rumour has come from various sources, two of which are of moderate reliability, and it is because of the substance of truth that apparently underlies it that we make it public. The rumour is that when the Captain Superintendent of Police and Acting Chief Inspector MACKIE raided the gambling house in Wa Lane nearly three weeks ago a book was found containing the names of certain police and other officials who had been paid hush money; further, that it is a rule for keepers of gambling houses to pay bribes in order that the word shall be passed to them when a raid by the police is intended. Is the rumour true or not? In regard to the book an immediate answer can be made, and the truth of the second part of the rumour perhaps in a measure depends upon the nature of that answer. Many years ago it was found that bribery amongst the police force had eaten into the very root of the service and that small fortunes were made in a very short time, but we sincerely trust this pernicious and most dangerous system does not now exist. It is said, in support of the rumour, that bribes amounting to as much as \$200 a day are paid by one gambling house alone. It is almost inconceivable that this can be true, and yet, if bribes are really paid, one can understand that a gambling house keeper would be prepared to pay large amounts in order to ensure his own safety and the safety of his numerous clients. We again ask, is it true that such a book has been seized? If so we are quite sure that His Excellency the Governor, for the sake of the Hongkong public service, will at once order a strict and impartial inquiry to be held to thoroughly investigate the matter. What the Captain Superintendent of Police said about the rumour concerning the Sanitary Board subordinates we say about the present rumour: "If the thing does not exist, well and good; if it does consequences will ensue." We hope the rumour is false.

[Since the above appeared in our daily issue several police officers have been suspended from duty pending further inquiry.]

## THE LIGHTING OF SOCOTRA.

Referring to a recent Reuter's telegram stating that the Board of Trade would spare no pains to overcome the difficulties hitherto attending the lighting of Cape Guardafui and Socotra, the *N. C. Daily News* remarks:—"It seems a ghastly thing to say that it required the loss of a P. & O. steamer to wake up the Government to the imperative need of lighthouses on Cape Guardafui and Socotra; but, ghastly as it is, it is the fact." We must confess we fail to see the appositeness of the term "ghastly." That, however, is by the way. As a matter of fact, the question had previously engaged the serious attention of the authorities, and one reason why an attempt to overcome the difficulties of establishing lighthouses had not already been made was the idea entertained in certain quarters that if established they would do more harm than good, as vessels would run into danger in

## CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

trying to "make" them, whereas while the dangers are unlighted shipmasters attempt to give them a wide berth. This argument does not find much favour with the mercantile marine, and apparently the Board of Trade has become convinced of its unsoundness, or, if not itself convinced, has yielded to the pressure of public opinion. It seems paradoxical that a lighthouse should ever be regarded as a source of danger, but it is nevertheless a fact that of the total number of wrecks that occur a certain proportion must be set down to vessels striking while trying to "make" lights, and it is held that in some positions the danger that would result from the existence of lighthouses more than counterbalances any service they might render to navigators. Shipmasters, however, who ought to be the best judges in the matter, have long desired a light on Socotra, and the decision of the Board of Trade to proceed with the work must therefore be hailed with satisfaction. Whether a light would have made any difference in the case of the *Aden* it is impossible to say until details are received, but it appears at least possible that in the cyclonic weather experienced a light might have proved of no practical utility to the unfortunate vessel.

## THE UNEBI-KAN REEF.

Captain Hodgins' suggestion that a gratuity should be given to the fishermen of the Pescadores to induce them to point out the reef on which the *Unebi-kan* is supposed to have been lost is practical and should be acted upon. The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce has a fund called the "Pinnacle Rock Fund," which has not been drawn on for many years and which now amounts to nearly three thousand dollars. This fund was established to provide rewards for Chinese fishermen reporting the existence of uncharted pinnacle rocks, but it might be as usefully employed in the discovery of reefs. We would suggest to the Committee of the Chamber that they should remind the Admiral of the existence of the fund and inform him that it may be drawn upon by the Commanders of any of Her Majesty's ships when useful information as to dangers to navigation may thereby be secured from the natives. That a reef exists in the locality mentioned by Captain HODGINS there can be no doubt, and it is of the first importance to shipping trading in these waters that its position should be accurately determined.

## THE AREA OF EXEMPTION FROM LEKIN.

In an article in last week's issue reference was made to the clause in the Chefoo Convention by which the Foreign Concessions were to be the area of exemption from lekin. It should be mentioned that by clause 1 of the Opium Agreement it was provided that this arrangement should be "reserved for further consideration between the two Governments," so that the arrangement is not legally operative, but the Chinese nevertheless claim and exercise the right to levy lekin anywhere outside the limits of the Concessions.

It is reported from the newly-opened port of Shashi that a severe epidemic is raging there, and that already a large number of people have succumbed to the disease. Whole families are reported to have been cut down within three or four days of the first attack. The epidemic is stated to have also spread across the river into Wuchang.—*N. C. Daily News*.

## SUPREME COURT.

8th July.

### IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

W. JACKSON, APPELLANT, V. A. PREDDLE, RESPONDENT.

Mr. W. Jackson, manager of Bell's Asbestos Agency, moved for leave to appeal from the decision of the Puisse Judge in an action he brought against A. Predde, of the East Point Dairy Farm. The motion was heard *ex-parte*.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson) appeared for the appellant and said he moved for leave to appeal on a question of fact from a decision given by Mr. Justice Wise in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The hearing of the case was as long ago as 20th May, and the Court was empowered to give leave to appeal if application was made within seven days of the hearing; but the Court could also in its discretion grant leave under exceptional circumstances after the expiration of that time. Therefore their Lordships had full power to entertain this application. The action was for the recovery of a dog and the evidence was solely of identification of the dog, which was produced in court. The position the defendant took up was that this dog was given to him and that he was entitled to keep it. He adduced the evidence of a man named Touleman, who swore that this dog was found by him or was given to him by a man named Allinson at the end of September or the beginning of October last and that he gave it to Predde, the defendant and respondent, in the beginning of January last. Mr. Jackson swore that he lost the dog some time in January. The defendant's evidence took the plaintiff entirely by surprise and on judgment being given against him he took steps to test the truth of the statements, which he had not in the least anticipated. He discovered that Allinson, who had been for some time in the Ordnance Store Department, had left to join the Imperial Maritime Customs of China and was at Shanghai. Plaintiff communicated with Allinson and obtained an affidavit from him that this dog was found by him in the beginning of January. He fixed the date by its being shortly before he was taken ill. The dog remained in his possession for some days and he gave it to the man Touleman, who, according to the evidence in the court below, gave it to defendant. The affidavit, if it was correct, meant an absolute denial of the statements on behalf of the defendant in the court below. Counsel asked for leave to appeal on the ground that evidence which could not be adduced in the court below could be adduced now.

The Chief Justice said the most convenient course would be to serve a notice of motion on the other side for leave to appeal by way of rehearing. He added that the question whether the Court would entertain the application having regard to the length of time would have to be argued, and he fixed Monday, at 11 o'clock, for the hearing of the motion.

6th July.

### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

WONG KUNG V. TAM CHUN.

Plaintiff brought an action to recover damages from the defendant for malicious prosecution.

Mr. Gedge appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. M. W. Slade for the defendant.

The following jury tried the case:—Messrs. P. Morris, H. Cook, and A. Bune.

Mr. H. Baxter, of the Bank of China and Japan, was called as a juror and he asked to be excused. He explained that one of the staff, Mr. Gaskell, served on a jury for the best part of a week quite recently and he had been laid up with fever.

His Lordship—Is he sick now?

Mr. Baxter—He is not.

His Lordship—I cannot help his past sick-



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nesses. If the staff was short now I would consider your application, but if Mr. Gaskell is there to-day I am afraid I cannot excuse you.

Mr. Baxter—We are making up our half-yearly accounts now. I sent in a written application to be excused to the Deputy Registrar.

His Lordship—No application has come to me. How can the Registrar deal with anything that has to do with a jury? The only person who can deal with the jury is the Judge.

Mr. Baxter—May I read what I wrote?

His Lordship—The facts that applied then do not apply now.

Mr. Baxter—Our work has been thrown in arrears through Mr. Gaskell being laid up.

His Lordship directed the Clerk of the Court to inquire why the Registrar had not sent Mr. Baxter's application to him. The application ought to have been sent to the Judge.

Mr. Baxter was then allowed to stand aside and Mr. A. Bune was called in his place.

His Lordship (to Mr. Baxter)—Under the circumstances I will not call upon you this time. This is not the first time I have heard of that letter. I know you wrote one, but I have not seen it. It ought to have come to me.

Mr. Gedge then opened the case and read the pleadings. At one time the plaintiff was an overseer in the employ of the defendant at a monthly wage of \$12, plus \$3 for food and \$3 for boat and ricksha hire, the defendant being a contractor residing at 36, Hollywood Road. During the latter part of the year defendant and two other men were engaged as contractors for the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, their work being to pull down forty houses and erect other buildings on the site. On the 14th January last defendant was sued by a Chinese firm for \$251.16, being the price of bricks sold and delivered on the building works carried on by the defendant. Defendant disputed his liability and the plaintiff gave evidence against him at the hearing of the case. Defendant lost the case. He was further sued for \$393.91, being the price of timber sold and delivered, and judgment was given against him in this case as well. There were also other cases in which he figured as defendant and lost; and in each one the plaintiff gave evidence in support of the claim. At and after the hearing of the suits the plaintiff was in the service of the defendant and the defendant was indebted to him in the sum of \$103, being the balance due by plaintiff for six months' wages. On the 27th January an emissary of the defendant went to the plaintiff's house and informed him that if he would go to 14, Possession Street the defendant would pay him the money that was owing to him. Plaintiff went and defendant voluntarily handed him \$100 in discharge of all lawful claims. Plaintiff received the sum in good faith in satisfaction of all claims and he used no menaces whatever. Defendant then caused the plaintiff to be arrested by a Chinese constable who was in the house at the time for that purpose, as it afterwards transpired. Plaintiff was taken to the Police Station and charged with feloniously and with menaces demanding the sum of \$100 from the defendant. On the 27th, 28th, 29th January, and the 1st February defendant feloniously and maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause appeared before Commander Hastings, Acting Police Magistrate, and prosecuted his charge against the plaintiff and pressed it, employing counsel on his behalf in doing so. On the 1st February the plaintiff was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, bail being allowed in the sum of \$1,000. The plaintiff was acquitted by the jury and he now claimed \$295, expenses incurred in defending himself at the Police Court and Criminal Sessions, \$18 one month's wages, and \$500 damages, together with the costs of the suit. Defendant, in answer to the plaintiff's petition, said the plaintiff was never employed by him in any capacity whatever. Defendant was not now resident and never did reside at 36, Hollywood Road. He denied having been engaged as a contractor for the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, but admitted being sued by various firms. The emissary mentioned in plaintiff's petition was not defendant's emissary but plaintiff's,

and he went to the defendant and said plaintiff was prepared to give no further evidence against the defendant in any future actions which might be brought against him by creditors provided that defendant paid to the plaintiff the sum of \$100. Defendant procured a Chinese detective and with him went to 14, Possession Street. Here plaintiff said that he would give no further evidence against defendant if defendant paid him \$100. If the money was not paid plaintiff said he would induce other men to give false promissory notes and he would himself give evidence against the defendant. Defendant handed over \$100 to the plaintiff and then had him arrested by the Chinese constable who was taken to the house. Defendant charged plaintiff with obtaining money by menaces with intent to steal the same and he denied that such charge was false and malicious.

7th July.

After all the evidence on both sides had been called Mr. Slade addressed the jury and submitted that when the defendant made the charge against the plaintiff he believed it to be true.

Mr. Gedge, in his address, said he had proved the bad character of the defendant, who was willing to do anything to escape the claims of his creditors. Judgment had been given against him in various cases to the amount of \$15,000 or \$16,000 and he had made over all his property to his wife, concubines, and relatives.

His Lordship, in summing up, said the question which the jury had to decide was a simple one. It was, did the defendant go to the house in Possession Street to get his wages or to get a bribe to shut his mouth? The wages book had been produced and from that there was no doubt \$103 was due to the plaintiff as wages. If the jury thought that the defendant did not honestly believe in the truth of the charge they had to consider the amount of damages and say whether \$500, the sum claimed as damages, was too much to award the plaintiff. If the defendant did not believe in the charge he had committed perjury at the Police Court and had continued to commit perjury.

The jury were of opinion that the defendant did not honestly believe in the truth of the charge.

His Lordship said on that finding he held there was a want of reasonable and probable cause and the verdict would be for the plaintiff. What did the jury assess as the amount of damages?

The jury intimated that they had fixed the damages in a lump sum of \$600.

His Lordship—Verdict for the plaintiff for \$600 and costs.

8th July.

E. A. BISCHOFF v. G. A. WATKINS.—  
A DEAL IN PUNJOMS.

Plaintiff sought to recover \$587.50 from the defendant, money due in respect of a transaction in shares.

Mr. G. C. C. Master appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. Hastings for the defendant.

Mr. Master said this was a claim arising out of a breach of a share contract, the contract, dated 22nd February, being for the purchase from the plaintiff by the defendant of 250 Punjom shares for delivery on the 31st May at \$11 per share. Correspondence, which was admitted, had passed on both sides. On the 12th May the defendant wrote to the plaintiff as follows:—

Hongkong, 12th May, 1897.

Dear Sir,—So far as I can at present see it will be impossible for me to take up 250 Punjoms due end of current month. Will you carry these for me till July or August, when I shall be in a position to take them up. I will willingly pay you any reasonable interest for doing so. If you can oblige me it will save me from a serious loss. It is advisable you should know this before the time comes in case you are depending upon me to take them up.

Sincerely Yours,  
G. A. WATKINS.

E. Bischoff, Esq.,

In reply the plaintiff wrote as follows:—

Hongkong, 16th May, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your favour of 12th May I am willing to carry the 250 Punjoms sold under contract to

your firm till July or August provided you pay the difference between the amount due and the market value on 31st May.

Yours truly,  
E. BISCHOFF.

G. A. Watkins, Esq.

The next letter was written by the plaintiff to the defendant and is addressed to Messrs. Watkins and Co.:—

28th May, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—With reference to my letter, to which you have not replied, I beg to inform you that I have in the meantime made engagements which do not allow me to carry the 250 Punjoms any longer than 31st May.

Yours truly,  
E. BISCHOFF.

Messrs. Watkins &amp; Co.

On the 31st May plaintiff wrote to the defendant as follows:—

31st May, 1897.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the 250 shares, Punjom Mining Co., Limited, sold to you through broker Michael under contract dated 22nd February for delivery to-day, which shares were tendered to you by Mr. J. R. Michael this morning, I beg to give you notice that I shall sell the same in the open market unless you take them up before 3 p.m. to-day against payment of \$2,750.

Yours truly,  
E. BISCHOFF.

In answer to that letter there was a note in the chit book—"Will reply.—G. A. W." The reply was dated 1st June and was as follows:—

1st June, 1897.

My Dear Mr. Bischoff,—Would you kindly give me till next month to settle difference on the Punjom shares and I will pay you interest. I have some money to draw then, when I can pay you if you would oblige.

Yours sincerely,  
G. A. WATKINS.

E. Bischoff, Esq.

Plaintiff would prove that he saw Mr. Watkins on the 2nd June and also wrote to him as follows:—

2nd June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your letter of yesterday requesting me to carry the 250 Punjom shares for you to the end of the month I am unable to accede to your proposition, the same not being accompanied by any security. The 250 shares in the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, which you bought from me under contract dated 22nd February at \$11—\$2,750—I have sold through broker Michael at \$8½ per share, 10 cents brokerage—\$2,162.50. Difference to your debit, \$587.50, for which amount please send me your cheque at once.

Yours truly,  
E. BISCHOFF.

G. A. Watkins, Esq.

The next letter was from the defendant:—

2nd June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In answer to yours of even date re 250 Punjoms, I certainly understood from your memo. of the 1st ultimo that you sold them as you notified me you would by 3 p.m. on that date. I believe the rate for that day was \$10 and I am prepared to pay the difference as stated in my note to you yesterday and which amount I asked you to allow to stand over till the end of current month.

Yours truly,  
G. A. WATKINS.

E. Bischoff, Esq.

The plaintiff afterwards wrote as follows:—

10th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—If you do not settle the difference on sale of 250 Punjoms, \$587.50, as per my letter of 2nd June, to-day before 3 p.m., I shall give the matter into the hands of a lawyer.—Yours truly,

E. BISCHOFF.

G. A. Watkins, Esq.

The reply to this was:—

10th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Sorry I cannot do as you request. I am perfectly agreeable to pay you the difference as on the 31st May, which is all I am liable for.

Yours truly,  
G. A. WATKINS.

E. Bischoff, Esq.,

On the 11th June, the following letter was written to the defendant by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master:—

11th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—We have been instructed by Mr. E. Bischoff, of Messrs. Carlowitz and Co., to apply to you for payment of \$587.50, being the amount of damage suffered by him through your failure to take delivery of and to pay for on the 31st ultimo, certain shares of the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, specified in a contract dated 22nd February last and sold for delivery on the 31st May at \$11 per share. These shares were, we are instructed, tendered to you on the 31st ult., and you then refused to take delivery and pay for them. On the same date our client gave you notice that unless you took delivery of the shares before 3 p.m. the same day he should sell them on the open market. You replied on the following day requesting time till next month to settle the difference and offering to pay interest, but our client was unable to accede to your request and sold the shares and informed you of the fact and the amount of his loss. Under these circumstances he now requires payment, and our instructions



are to take legal proceedings on Monday next unless in the meantime the matter is settled in a manner satisfactory to our client.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHNSON STOKES, and MASTER.

G. A. Watkins, Esq.,

The reply to that letter was as follows:—

11th June, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—In answer to yours re Mr. Bischoff's claim I am prepared to and have offered to pay the difference between the market rate on the 31st ultimo and the contract price of said shares; \$1 per share, and unless Mr. Bischoff accepts this, which is customary and fair, the case must go into court.

Yours very truly,  
G. A. WATKINS.

Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master.

Then followed this letter:—

11th June, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—In reply to your letter of this date we are aware of the position you attempt to take up. Seeing that you are not prepared to admit your liability and settle the matter we presume it is no use giving you any further time and we are therefore about to issue a writ. Have you a solicitor upon whom you wish us to serve the writ of summons and who will accept service?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHNSON, STOKES, and MASTER.

G. A. Watkins, Esq.,

The reply was written on the same day:—

11th June, 1897.

Dear Sirs,—You are slightly in error when you say I refuse to settle Mr. Bischoff's difference re Punjoms. I have repeatedly offered and am still willing to settle according to the usual custom, that is, the rate of the day the shares were due. I cannot afford a solicitor, so the writ will be accepted by me.

Yours truly,  
G. A. WATKINS.

Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master.

Mr. Master then said that \$375 had been paid into court by the defendant, that being at the rate of \$9.50 per share, and this action was brought to recover the difference between \$8.75, at which the shares were sold, and the price mentioned in the contract, namely, \$11 per share, less 10 cents paid for brokerage.

Plaintiff was then called and said—I entered into a contract, dated 22nd February, with the defendant for the sale to him of 250 Punjom shares to be delivered on the 31st May. I held the shares until the time came for delivery. On the 31st May I received a letter from Mr. Michael and in consequence of that letter I wrote to the defendant and told him that if he did not take up the shares by 3 p.m. I would sell them in the open market. Defendant wrote in the chit book "Will reply, G.A.W." I made enquiries what the market rate was, but I waited until I received the reply before taking further action. I enquired of Mr. E. S. Joseph, broker, what the market price was and he wrote me a letter, which I have lost. I tried to sell the shares through Joseph on the 31st May, but I could not get an offer. I did not tell him to sell, but I asked him to get me an offer. I first went to Mr. G. H. Potts, who told me he had no buyers. I received defendant's reply on the 1st June and on the following day I went to him. I told him I could not wait any longer for the money and I should have to sell the shares that day. He said he understood I had sold them for \$10 each. I told him "However could you think that I had sold the shares for \$10? The rate was \$9.50 sellers in the afternoon and I could not get buyers." He added that he thought it was customary to pay the market rate. I told him that the shares were firm at \$10 in the morning; why did he not sell them? The defendant said the shares were not in his hands, and I replied that the shares were in his hands until 3 o'clock. He said he could only pay \$1 difference, but he had no ready cash to pay. I proposed that he should pay me money down for some and I would take security for the rest. He said he could do nothing, and I said I should go to my lawyer. I sold the shares that morning through Mr. Michael for \$8.75 per share and I wrote the letter of the 7th June to the defendant. My actual loss was \$587.50.

By Mr. Hastings—Mr. Michael wrote to me at eleven o'clock in the morning stating that defendant had not taken up the shares. I received a letter on the 12th May from the defendant stating that he could not take up the shares on the 31st. I did not sell the shares at once because I wanted him to attend to his own business. I wanted him to force me to sell the shares by writing me a letter. At eleven o'clock the shares were firm at \$10. About 3.30 I

wrote to Mr. Joseph asking him for an offer for the 250 shares. He wrote stating that the rate was \$9.50 sellers and that if he had an offer he would let me know. I did not give him instructions to sell the shares; it is not usual to do so. I simply told him I had the shares for sale. I afterwards saw Mr. Potts, who told me the rate was \$9.50 sellers. I asked him if he could buy from me at \$9.50 and he said he had no buyers. On the following day, 1st June, the rate was \$9.25 sellers and Mr. Joseph told me he would let me know if he got any buyers. I did not instruct anyone to sell at the best price he could get. I took defendant's letter of the 1st June to be a request to carry the shares for him. On re-reading the letter I do not think I was mistaken.

Mr. Master submitted that the letter of the 1st June could be read in two ways.

Re-examined—The letter from Mr. Michael, dated 31st May, was as follows:—"Dear Sir, I have tendered your 250 shares to Mr. Watkins to-day, but he told me to keep them and he would communicate with you, so you can now attend to this business."

Mr. J. R. Michael, broker, said—I tendered the shares to defendant on the 31st May. He said "It's all right, keep them, and I will settle with Bischoff." I had instructions to sell them on settling day at 3 o'clock, but I could not find buyers although I tried to sell them. I sold them on the 2nd June at \$8.75. On the 1st June the selling rate was quoted at \$9.

By Mr. Hastings—I personally tendered the shares to the defendant. He may have said he had no money to take them up, but I do not remember. I cannot remember if he told me he could not take up the shares and he would settle the difference with Bischoff; he might have said that. I do not know if I could have sold the shares on the 1st June.

Mr. E. S. Joseph, broker, said he received a memo. from Mr. Bischoff asking him at what price he could sell 250 Punjoms. He replied that he had no buyers, but he would see. He had sold shares at \$9.50 and \$9.75 in the morning of that date, but there were no buyers in the afternoon as the market was weaker.

Mr. S. S. Benjamin, broker, of the firm of Benjamin, Kelly, and Potts, said that on the morning of the 31st May he did business in Punjoms at \$10. There were a good many transactions. There were no buyers in the afternoon. He was offered shares at \$9.50, but he could not place them. On the 2nd June he did business at \$9.

Mr. G. H. Potts, broker, also gave evidence of the state of the market.

This concluded the case for the plaintiff.

Mr. Hastings, for the defence, said there was little dispute between the parties on the facts of the case. He submitted that the plaintiff was entitled to obtain from the defendant only the price of the shares at the time the contract was broken. The plaintiff's duty, directly the contract was broken by the shares not being taken on the morning of the 31st May, was immediately to sell the shares in the open market. If he had done so it was known from the evidence given that he could have obtained probably \$10 and at least \$9.50 before tiffin, and in order to make the matter quite safe the defendant had paid into Court \$9.50 per share.

His Lordship—The question is, was he bound to sell his shares before the close of that day?

Mr. Hastings admitted that was the question. There was no doubt about the facts. On that date the market was brisk in the morning and shares were selling freely at \$10, \$9.75, and \$9.50, and in the afternoon the market was slow and probably nothing better than \$9 could have been obtained. Therefore it was clear that the plaintiff could have sold the shares for at least \$9.50 in the morning and \$9 in the afternoon if he had given an order. On the 12th May the plaintiff had notice that defendant could not take up the shares on the 31st May, and on that notice plaintiff could have taken immediate action and could have sued if he had chosen to do so. He was not bound to sell the shares at all. He could have kept them, but he could only obtain from the defendant the difference between the contract price and the price he could have obtained at the time the contract was broken. Plaintiff,

however, chose to leave the matter until three o'clock in the afternoon. That was a matter for himself and unfortunately the delay resulted in a very much greater loss. The question was, who had to bear that loss?

The defendant was then called. He said—On the 31st May Mr. Michael tendered the shares to me over my counter. I told him I had not the money and I could not take them up and that he had better sell them the best way he could and I would settle the difference with Mr. Bischoff. I asked him what the market rate was and to the best of my recollection the reply was \$9.50.

By Mr. Master—The letter of the 12th May certainly has the same effect as if I had written "I am not going to complete the contract." If I had been left \$5,000 between the 12th and 31st May I should have taken up the shares. The letter was to tell him that so far as I could see I should not have the money to take up the shares. The reply to the letter was not such as I should expect if I had absolutely repudiated the contract. It is the custom if shares are not taken up on the contract day to sell them. I have done it myself several times and have either paid or received the difference.

Mr. Hastings again addressed His Lordship and submitted that the question was, when was the contract broken? Was it broken at eleven o'clock on the morning of the 31st May or was it not broken until the latest time of business hours that day? He submitted that the contract was broken at eleven o'clock in the morning and therefore the price paid into the court was over the mark. The plaintiff chose not to sell the shares at once and he kept them until three o'clock in the afternoon. As a matter of principle the defendant was entitled to the best price of the day and that was \$10.

His Lordship—Suppose I find the price was \$10 do you want money paid into Court back again?

Mr. Hastings—Of course we cannot get any money back. If we have paid in too much the plaintiff is entitled to it.

Mr. Master said his friend had submitted that the defendant was entitled to the price at the very moment when he said he would not carry out his contract. The effect of that would be that no time would be allowed the broker to consult his principal or for the principal to turn the matter over in his own mind and consider how he should act. If the case went against the plaintiff his Lordship would in effect say that the plaintiff was negligent because he did not manage to sell the shares at \$10 before tiffin. That was a most unreasonable proposition and one which would paralyze business. He asked for judgment for the plaintiff, who had done everything he could reasonably have been expected to do.

His Lordship said he would consider the point and reserve judgment.

9th July.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said that \$375 had been paid into court, and his judgment would be for the plaintiff for that amount plus \$150, the total making the difference between \$9 a share and the contract price, \$11 a share, together with a brokerage fee of 10 cents a share. His Lordship was of opinion that the plaintiff had conducted the transaction in a very business-like manner. The contract really concluded at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 31st May, the note of the defendant in the chit book "Will reply" having somewhat disconcerted the plaintiff. There was no doubt that on the morning of that day there was a flush of Punjom shares in the market, the result being that the rate declined from \$10 in the morning to \$9 in the afternoon.

Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff for \$525 and costs.

13th July.

KESHIR SINGH V. LAWRENCE AND  
ANOTHER.

Plaintiff sued for \$200 on a guarantee given by the defendants. Mr. Thompson (of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings' office) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. M. J. D. Stephens for the defendant.



At the outset Mr. Stephens took an objection to the 50 cents stamp that covered the document, on which was the promissory note as well as the guarantee; the proper stamp for the guarantee was a 5 cents one. The promissory note was not stamped at all; moreover, no name was mentioned in it, it being simply payable to bearer.

Mr. Thompson said that the 50 cents stamp referred to the promissory note.

His Lordship pointed out that in that case the guarantee could not be stamped.

Mr. Thompson—That does not prevent my suing.

His Lordship—No, but you will have to pay the penalty.

Mr. Thompson—Quite so.

His Lordship—The penalty is ten times the amount.

Mr. Stephens again submitted that the stamp referred to the guarantee.

His Lordship—It is very extraordinary that a 50 cents stamp is put on when a 5 cents stamp would do. I am prepared, however, to hold that the stamp must apply to the promissory note only. The document was stamped on the 5th April and the money lent on the 12th April. The plaintiff gets this thing as part of his stock-in-trade. He has many of them in his pocket now, probably.

Mr. Stephens—I contend that as the law says the promissory note must bear a certain stamp, that stamp, and not one of a higher value, should have been used. You cannot use a stamp of extra value.

His Lordship—You try the Treasurer. (Laughter.) I know very well how the men work. They get a lot of blank stamped papers and fill them in as they are required. Therefore I do not see how the stamp can possibly apply to the guarantee.

The objection was therefore over-ruled.

Mr. Thompson then explained the facts of the case. In April, 1895, the father of the two defendants, Fanny Lawrence and Emily Morphew, borrowed \$200 on a promissory note from the defendant, and his daughters signed underneath a guarantee to pay the money back. Interest at the rate of two per cent, per month was paid until January last, when Joseph Lawrence, the father, died, and the payments were stopped. Complainant now sued on the guarantee for the principal.

Complainant, a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery, gave evidence in support of the opening statement.

The defence was that the security was a substituted one and that a co-surety in the former security did not sign the present one. The co-surety was a brother of the defendants, his age at the present time being 17.

His Lordship said he could not believe that the defendants intended that their brother should sign as a co-surety. His Lordship was very sorry for the defendants, but judgment must be given against them for the full amount of the claim with costs.

On the application of Mr. Stephens His Lordship ordered the money to be paid in monthly instalments of \$25.

### THE POLICE SCANDAL.

#### OFFICERS SUSPENDED.

On Tuesday Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police) suspended the following officers from duty pending further inquiries:—Detective Inspector Stanton, Detective Inspector Quincey, Inspector Baker, and Detective Sergeant Holt. These suspensions were made in consequence of an inquiry held by Mr. May concerning the alleged acceptance of bribes in the Hongkong Police Force. Two Chinese detectives have been arrested under banishment warrants in connection with the affair.

The officers suspended are amongst the oldest and most respected in the Police Force and we are sure that everyone sincerely trusts that the further inquiries which are to be instituted will result in the exoneration of all of them, but of course the matter is too serious a one to admit of any indulgence should the offence be brought home to them.

### SAD DEATH OF MR. D. K. SLIMAN.

13th July.

We were shocked on Saturday forenoon by the rumour of the death by drowning of Mr. D. K. Sliman, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Agent in Swatow, and on enquiry at the office were much grieved to have the rumour confirmed. At the time of going to press particulars of the sad affair are not to hand further than that the casualty occurred while the deceased was bathing off Masu, adjacent to the locality commonly known to Swatow residents as "Double Island."

Mr. Sliman, after some years' service with Messrs. Matheson & Co., in London, came to the East between five and six years ago as an assistant to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. On arrival he went to Shanghai, but shortly afterwards returned to the Hongkong office, serving subsequently in Foochow and Swatow, both of which branches he was in charge of at intervals.

Being naturally of a retiring disposition Mr. Sliman was for some time comparatively unknown except to his messmates in the hong and a few immediate friends. His sterling qualities, however, could not for long be hidden under a bushel, and it was soon found that in addition to his well-known capacity for business he was an expert musician, possessed of a tenor voice the equal of which is seldom heard out here. He joined the Amateur Dramatic Club and may be remembered in the productions of "Princess Toto" and "Les Cloches de Corneville," but it is not of that we would altogether treat now, but rather of the whole-heartedness which prompted him during his leisure to ungrudgingly put forth his best vocal efforts, whether in the Cathedral choir, in the City Hall to an applauding audience, in the room of a friend laid low by sickness, assisting at an entertainment to those of our compatriots who through force of circumstances for the time being become inmates of the Sailors' Home, or at the annual Christmas musical entertainment to the patients at the Government Civil Hospital. He was always willing and no request that at any time was made to him, compatible with his duty to the firm, was refused.

The last time we saw Mr. Sliman in Hongkong was little more than a fortnight ago, when he obtained leave to visit this port for the Jubilee Celebration. He then sang at the Cathedral Service with much effect the solo interpolated by Mr. Ward into the anthem, and took part in the songs of praise at the Happy Valley on the 22nd June. After the celebrations he returned to his post in Swatow in the best of health and spirits, looking forward to a trip home in the near future.

We are informed that the remains are to be brought to Hongkong for interment, which arrangement has been considerably made by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., much to the satisfaction of the late Mr. Sliman's friends here. We are sure the graceful act will be highly appreciated by the sorrowing relatives at home and at the same time we feel confident that our Swatow friends can but approve the tribute Hongkong wishes to pay to one of their departed.

Touching allusion to the sad event was made by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold in his sermon at the Cathedral on Sunday morning. The hymns also were selected with reference to it, and at the conclusion of the service the "Dead March" was played.

#### THE FUNERAL.

On Tuesday afternoon the remains of the late Mr. D. K. Sliman were interred at the Happy Valley. The scene at the graveside, where the whole service, which was choral, was conducted, was a solemnly impressive one. Here were gathered the deceased's many sorrowing friends, the representatives of perhaps every European firm in the colony, and the Cathedral choir, which has lost so sweet a singer, while His Excellency the Governor was represented by Captain Phillips, A.D.C. The hearse containing the coffin, which was covered with numerous beautiful wreaths, one of which was in the form of a harp, was followed from East Point by the members of the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and the staffs of the various departments, and at

the Monument the deceased's friends joined the procession. There was no service in the Church, the coffin being borne direct to the grave, near which was a harmonium, which was played by Mr. Ward, the Cathedral Organist. During the service, which was conducted by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the choir, in addition to the psalm, sang the following hymns—"Christ will gather in His own," "Peace, perfect peace," and "On the Resurrection morning." The body was committed to the grave by the following representatives of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, Mr. K. McK. Ross, Mr. C. W. Richards, Mr. G. T. Veitch, Mr. J. Barton, Mr. D. Landale, and Mr. C. H. Ross.

The body arrived in Hongkong from Swatow on Tuesday afternoon by the Douglas steamer *Namoa*, which was flying her flag half mast, and was at once taken to East Point. By this steamer Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. received the account of the sad accident. On the 9th July Mr. Sliman and four friends went for a swim off Double Island. After being in the water for about ten minutes Mr. Sliman, who had probably become faint through exhaustion, was observed by two of his friends to suddenly raise his arms and disappear below the surface. That something grave had happened was not realised at the moment, but when it was seen that Mr. Sliman did not rise to the surface his four friends, one of whom was Mr. C. H. Ross, at once hastened to the spot and dived under the water to attempt to find the body. Their efforts were in vain and even with the assistance of drags the body could not be found. About four hours after the sad occurrence Mr. Sliman's body was washed up on the shore at Masu and it was thereupon removed to the chapel at Kakchau. On the following day an inquest was held, a verdict of accidental death being recorded.

### DEATH OF MR. L. POESNECKER.

It is with much regret we learn that Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. on 11th inst. received a telegram from London announcing the sudden death of one of the oldest partners in the firm, Mr. Lorenz Poesnecker. Mr. Poesnecker was the resident partner of the firm in Hongkong for many years and was well known and popular both in business and social circles. He went home in 1892, after a residence of over twenty years in the Far East, spent almost entirely in this colony, and left behind him a large circle of friends, to whom his death will cause sincere sorrow. When the news became known the flags of many of the hongs and that of the German Club were lowered to half-mast.

### THE RECORD TRANS-PACIFIC VOYAGE.

10 DAYS AND 3 HOURS VANCOUVER TO YOKOHAMA.

The C. P. R. Company's steamer *Empress of Japan*, which left Vancouver, B.C., on Saturday p.m., 26th June, five days late, arrived at Yokohama at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 7th instant, having made the voyage from port to port in the remarkable time of 10 days and 3 hours actual steaming, thus breaking by 14 hours her previous record voyage of 10 days; 17 hours, and 40 mins. homeward bound, made in August, 1891, when her Yokohama mails were delivered in the London Post Office inside of 21 days. She left Yokohama on the 7th at 9 p.m. and, notwithstanding her five days' late departure from Vancouver, arrived at Hongkong on time, on Wednesday, the 14th inst.

Yesterday was the day fixed for the hearing of the motion for appeal by the plaintiff in the case *W. Jackson v. E. Priddle*, but it was arranged to take the case before the full Court, probably to-morrow. It will be remembered that the plaintiff sued for the recovery of a bull terrier dog, which has recently been lost. He lost the action and having obtained further evidence in his favour he is moving for the decision of the Puisne Judge to be reversed.



### THE CHARGE AGAINST A GODOWN KEEPER.

#### INTERESTING EVIDENCE.

At the Police Court on 8th inst., P. Vincent, godown keeper, was charged on remand with stealing two boxes, cups and saucers, a quantity of glass ware, altogether of the value of \$12, belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, by whom he was employed.

The Tsun said—I am a godown coolie in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Hongkong. On the 11th April last the s.s. *Empress of Japan* arrived in Hongkong. On the 15th April, at 4 p.m., I saw the defendant wrap up three cups and three saucers in the godown and go out and get into a ricksha and drive away. On the 16th April I saw the defendant putting cups and saucers and plates and other things into a box now in Court in the godown. He took it away about 4.15 p.m. the same day. On 17th April, at about 9 a.m., I saw the defendant open the godown and go upstairs. In a short time he came down with a parcel and handed it to his ricksha coolie. I do not know what the parcel contained. On the 19th April, at about 4 p.m., the defendant asked me and another godown coolie to take a box downstairs. We did so and the defendant put it into a ricksha and drove away. The godown is in Blue Buildings, Praya East. The leather boxes in court belonged to Chinese passengers. They had been in the godown for a long time.

In answer to the defendant witness said—The cups and saucers belonged to the Company and not to private individuals.

Ma Sin, ricksha coolie, said one afternoon in the month of May he went to the City Hall with the defendant, who carried a parcel. He took the parcel into the City Hall and returned without it. On the following day the defendant told him to take the box in court to a house in Duddell Street. Witness did so. The box, which was heavy, was given to him at the godown.

George Millward said—I am freight clerk in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The defendant was our storekeeper on the 18th May last. On that date, at 6 p.m., I sent the defendant from the office to the *Empress of India*, at the time lying at her mooring. I asked him to get a purser's receipt for the parcels which he took off and return to the office. He did not return. On the following morning, as he did not come to the office, I asked the first witness where he was. He said the storekeeper was sick and would not be at the office. On the following day I heard that the defendant had gone away. I got the keys of the godown from the defendant's house in Wanchai and kept them. Two days later, in consequence of what I heard, I went to the godown to take stock. From what the first witness told me I went to the Police Station and took out a warrant. I found that three cups and saucers, eight tumblers, one large Saratoga box, one Chinese box, and other articles were missing, of the value altogether of \$15. This was all that was missing out of the whole stock, which is worth about \$34,000. The Chinese box in court is one of the missing things. The defendant has been in our employ for about a year. His salary was \$80 a month. Our last stocktaking was in December, 1896. He had no business to leave our employ in the way he did.

The defendant, in his defence, said—When I took over the stores from the freight clerk, Mr. Measor, he took me down to the stores and told me he thought everything was correct. Not being satisfied I went over the stores myself. I found several articles deficient and several in excess. I reported the matter to the freight clerk. He asked me to make exchange with the stewards of the Company's steamers with the articles in which I was in excess for those in which I was short. I did make exchange with some of the articles, but some I could not exchange. Some of the articles which the prosecutor has charged me with stealing were amongst the articles unchanged. As to the American trunk, it was full of white ants. I had authority from Mr. Brown to destroy all articles so attacked. I turned the articles out of it and it being otherwise broken I turned it out of the store as rubbish.

The glasses and plates that I took I was asked by Captain Tillett to lend for the Company's picnic launch some time in April. They were put into the launch and never returned. I went to Japan for my health. At Shanghai I was arrested on the steamer. I met Mr. Hudson, for whom I was working in Hongkong. I met some of his party who asked me if I would bring Japanese tea sets from Japan. I did so and brought them on to Hongkong by the *Empress of Japan*. I put them into my store until the arrival of Hudson's party from Shanghai. I met them on their arrival on Wednesday morning, about the 14th or 15th May, and brought them with their baggage to Old Pedder's Wharf. One of the party asked me if I would take care of three boxes for them until their departure. They consisted of one big trunk and two small boxes. I kept them in the godown until the 7th May. I then took the big box to the City Hall. I took the two small boxes to Stainfield's Hotel, where my friend was staying. The box in court was at the time being used as a dust box. I made use of it to pack a Japanese tea set which got broken on the way down and I took it to Stainfield's Hotel. I handed it to the person for whom I had brought it. They unpacked the tea set and asked me to take the box back, but as I was not going to town at the time I told them I would send for it. I forgot to do so and it remained there. The prosecutor sent me with a chit for a deck chair for the stores. We sent to the office for it. On making enquiries at the office I found that this chair, not being the property of the Company or the prosecutor, was sent to his house. He has on several occasions sent chits to the chief stewards of the company's steamers for stores supplied for the use of passengers and crew, and these stores have been packed up and handed to me in the steam launch to take to the office for the prosecutor. The stewards have remarked at the time that the Company was not aware that these stores were being supplied to him.

To the Court—My reason for leaving Hongkong without notice was on account of financial difficulties. It had nothing to do with the crime with which I am charged. The large Saratoga trunk was the one I put out of the store on account of white ants. The eight tumblers were in Captain Tillett's launch. I keep the record of articles issued. I did not enter the issue of the trunk or Chinese box, nor did I enter the issue of the articles I gave to Captain Tillett because I knew they would be returned.

George Millward, recalled, said—It was only the three cups and saucers that I discovered missing from the stock book. The Saratoga trunk and Chinese box were on the office list of unclaimed passengers' goods. It was in that way that I discovered their loss. They have been unclaimed for eighteen months at least. After the lapse of six months they become the property of the Company.

Detective Sergeant Hall, who arrested the defendant in Shanghai, said the defendant had been in custody for six weeks.

His Worship said the defendant's explanation seemed to fit in with the facts of the case, and he discharged him.

### ASSAULT IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

At the Police Court on Tuesday, before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Frederick Howell, bailiff of the Supreme Court, was summoned for assaulting Alexander Thaler, a merchant, on Sunday last.

Mr. Master appeared for the prosecution.

Complainant said—I am a merchant and carry on business in Vienna. I am passing through the colony and stay at the Hongkong Hotel. On the 11th inst., about noon, I was passing near the Hongkong Hotel when I heard a noise behind me. I saw three dogs fighting with a dog which belonged to my friend, Mr. Bischoff. I thought the owners of the dogs were going to separate them. I tried to separate them by gently putting my stick near them. The defendant immediately struck me a blow on the nose with his fist, causing blood to flow. I gave no provocation to my knowledge. I gave no actual blow to the dogs.

In answer to the defendant witness said—I struck the dog on the leg. The dog, I think, was fighting with the dog of my companion, Mr. Bischoff. The dog did not yelp out when I struck it.

Mr. E. A. Bischoff, clerk to Messrs. Carlowitz and Co., said—On the 11th inst. I was passing the Hongkong Hotel when I saw three dogs fighting my dog, which is a greyhound bitch. The three dogs appeared to belong to defendant. He was deliberately setting the dogs on mine. The defendant became very angry and struck complainant a blow on the face, causing blood to flow.

Mr. L. Spetz corroborated.

The defendant explained to the Magistrate that one of his puppies was struck by the complainant and added—I did not give him a direct blow, I merely meant to shake my fist in his face.

For the defence Mr. Louis Martel, wine merchant, was called. He said—I saw some dogs barking and fighting. I saw complainant hit one of the dogs with his stick, but I cannot say whether the blow was severe or not. I could not see properly. I saw him strike out and the dog yelped after the blow. All the dogs were yelping at the time.

In answer to Mr. Master witness said—I cannot swear that the blow caused the dog to yelp. I saw complainant's nose bleeding. The defendant appeared to me to be shaking his fist and in doing so it struck the complainant's nose. I did not see whether the complainant provoked the defendant.

Defendant said he very much regretted the occurrence.

The defendant, at the suggestion of the Magistrate, made a public apology to the complainant, and the Magistrate inflicted a fine of \$10.

### THE DIAMOND JUBILEE GYMKHANA.

After two or three irritating postponements on account of the weather the Diamond Jubilee Gymkhana was held on Saturday afternoon at the Happy Valley, and even on this occasion the event was almost choked off by the rain. The meteorological forecast indicated "showery weather, fine intervals," and residents were in anxious doubt whether the fine intervals would be longer than the showers. Fortunately the conditions were fairly favourable and the showers that fell during the afternoon were only of short duration. The Grand Stand and the Jockey Club stands displayed innumerable flags to great advantage. The attendance was exceedingly good, amongst those present being His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., His Excellency Major-General Black, Commodore Holland, Hon. C. P. Chater C.M.G., the members of the Jubilee Committee, and all the leading residents. The pony races were the source of much enjoyment, but the bicycle races were poor stuff. In one of his books Rudyard Kipling, in contrasting the hundreds of pleasures to be found in London with the few entertainments provided for residents in the East, talks of gymkhanas as "dolorous dissipations." Bicycle races such as those witnessed on Saturday must have provoked him to use that term. Two cups were offered for competition amongst bicyclists and although one of the prizes was worth nearly \$200 there was a lamentable lack of competition for them. However there was a large number of entries in each of the pony races, although as a mark of respect to the late Mr. D. K. Sliman the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and the other members of the Ewo hong cancelled the engagements of all their ponies. Of course the ground was in a very heavy condition and this fact militated against good times being recorded. The menagerie race was not brought off, only a monkey, which was in charge of a bare-footed soldier, and a chow dog turning up for the contest.

The following is a list of the officials.—

Patrons:—H. E. Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G.; H. E. Major-General Black, C.B.; Commodore Holland, A.D.C.

Committee:—Messrs. A. Babington, Hart Buck, P. G. Davies, R.A., R. M. Gray, V.A.C. Hawkins, T. F. Hough, Hons. J. J. Bell-Irving, T. H. Whitehead, and F. H. May, C.M.G., Com-



mander Taylor, R.N., Captain Loveband, A.D.C., Captain Burney, R.A., Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Messrs R. K. Leigh, J. McKie, G. C. C. Master, G. H. Potts, and M. D. Wood, W.Y.R.

Judges:—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins, A.D.C.  
Handicappers:—Messrs. Hart Buck, R. M. Gray, and G. C. C. Master.

Starter:—Mr. A. Babington.

Timekeeper:—Mr. G. H. Potts.

Clerk of the Scales:—Mr. Hart Buck.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. A. Babington.

Hon. Secretary:—Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.

During the afternoon the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, under Bandmaster W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., beguiled the few waits by playing the following selections of music:—  
Overture..... "French Comedy" ..... Kellà Bela.  
Spanish Serenade "La Paloma" ..... Yradier.  
Selection..... "The Circus Girl" ..... Ivan Caryll.  
Song ..... "The Star of Bethlehem" ..... Adams.  
Valse ..... "Tarentula" ..... W. G. Bentley.  
Reminiscences of "All Nations" ..... F. Godfrey.  
The DIAMOND CUP; presented by the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving; five furlongs; second pony two-thirds of entries, third pony one-third entries. For Subscription Griffins of 1896-97 and other ponies which have never won a race at a race meeting and have been in the colony over two months; weight for inches with 3 lbs. added. Subn. Griffins being non-winners at a race meeting allowed 7 lbs. Entrance \$3.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Kingscote, 11st. 4lbs. (Capt. Burney) 1  
Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Sport, 11st. 0lb. (Mr. Wood) 2  
Mr. Gray's Sperber, 11st. 4lbs. (Mr. Master) 3  
Mr. Medico's Hermes, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Crane) 0  
Mr. Forbes's Simple Simon, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 0  
Capt. Thompson's Chin Chin, 10st. 9lbs. (Mr. Lawford) 0  
Mr. Leon's Glendubh, 10st. 7lbs. (Mr. Courtin) 0  
Mr. Pogose's Hopeful, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Cox) 0

The ponies were got out up to time, but there was a delay of a few minutes at the post. When the flag fell the ponies were in fairly good order. Kingscote immediately took a slight lead, which he increased going up the hill, and at the bend had gained an advantage of about two lengths. In the straight Sport pressed him hard and came in second a length behind. Sperber was third four lengths behind. Time—1 min. 24½ secs.

BICYCLE RACE; (the "Dragon Cup"); presented by Messrs. Williams, Gibson & Co., open to all cyclists who have never won a race (except school races); 1½ miles; second and third prizes. Entrance, \$3.

Mr. Tse Wing Yun ..... 1  
Mr. A. A. Alves ..... 2  
Mr. A. F. B. Silva Netto ..... 0

The race was finished exactly 7 mins. 27 secs. after the flag fell, so that progress was made at the rate of a little over eight miles an hour. The Chinaman won by about two yards and his victory was loudly applauded.

THE CHAIRMAN'S CUP; presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater; second pony two-thirds and third pony one-third of entries; once round course; handicap for all China ponies. Entrance \$4.

Mr. Master's Codfish (late Backwell), 10st. 12lbs. (Owner) 1  
Mr. Cox's Saucy, 10st. 9lbs. (Owner) 2  
Mr. Medico's Hermes, 11st. (Mr. Crane) 3  
Lt. Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 11st. 12lb. (Mr. Wood) 0  
Mr. Leon's Glendubh, 10st. 5lbs. (Mr. Courtin) 0  
Capt. Burney's Humbug, 10st. 4lbs. (Mr. Gordon) 0  
Mr. Forbes's Simple Simon, 10st. 4lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 0

Saucy got away at the start, but from the bridge Codfish had matters pretty well as he liked and won by three lengths; six lengths between second and third. Time—2 mins. 5½ secs.

MENAGERIE RACE; entrance free; post entries; 1st prize, \$15; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

The race did not fill.

THE POLO PONY CUP; presented by R. M. Gray, Esq.; three furlongs; for *bond fide* polo ponies; to be ridden by playing members of the Polo Club; catch weights over 11st. 7lbs.;

second pony two-thirds of entries; third pony one-third of entries. Entrance \$3.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Kingscote, 11st. 7lbs. (Captain Burney) 1  
Capt. Price's The Beast, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Wood) 2  
Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Vicar, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Gordon) 3  
Mr. Hermits's Wakeful Joe, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Gibson) 0  
Capt. Phillips's Relief, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Platt) 0  
Capt. Price's The Cheser, 11st. 7lbs. (Capt Phillips) 0

This race was a very good one between the first two, the others being very straggling. It was a neck and neck tussle in the straight between Kingscote and The Beast, the former getting home with just a head to the good. Time—48 secs.

BICYCLE RACE; cup presented by Chun Sew, Esq.; open to all cyclists; second and third prizes. Entrance \$3. 2 miles.

Mr. A. M. Kirdy ..... 1  
Mr. Tse Wing Yun ..... 2  
Mr. A. A. Alves ..... 0  
Mr. Tsang Sum Yung ..... 0

The winner easily beat his opponents off and amidst great cheering passed the winning post with the second man a long way behind. No time was taken.

OBSTACLE RACE FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS; entrance free; post entries; 1st prize, \$15; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

Private Spike, W.Y.R. .... 1  
Private Last, W.Y.R. .... 2  
Gunner McFadden, R.A. .... 3

JUBILEE CHAMPION CUP; second pony two-thirds of entries; third pony one-third entries; for all China ponies; weight for inches; from the 2 mile post once round and in. Entrance \$5.

Mr. Gray's Rockhall, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Master) 1  
Mr. Master's Codfish (late Blackwell), 10st. 9lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 2  
Lt. Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Wood) 3

Mr. Cox's Saucy, 10st. 6lbs. (Owner) 0  
Mr. B. P. P's Polo 10st. 12lbs. (Capt. Burney) 0

This, the last race of the day, was run when many people had left the ground. It resulted in a good contest between Rockhall and Codfish. Saucy made a bold bid for third place and was beaten for that honour by only half a head. Time—2 mins. 31½ secs.

#### DIAMOND JUBILEE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contributions:—

Already acknowledged ..... \$57,425.84  
E. Sharp ..... 200  
\$57,625.84

Chinese subscriptions amounting to \$34.976 have also been acknowledged.

#### HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

##### CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR JULY.

The entries for the monthly cup were fairly up to an average. The winner of this cup and pool put in an excellent first round of 41; his second round of 46 was spoilt by an 8 at the long hole, but, with this exception, his card showed a very steady game. We were glad to notice the re-appearance of one of our leading players, who has been absent for some ten weeks from the links. Subjoined are the details of the cards returned:—

Mr. C. W. May ..... 87 6 81\*  
Com. R. P. Cochran, R.N. 103 14 89\*  
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins... 100 8 92\*  
Mr. G. Millward ..... 107 15 92

17 entries.

\* Also entered for the "Pool," for which there were 15 competitors.

The jury empanelled in the case of Captain E. J. Read, tried in the United States Circuit Court at New York, on a charge of having failed to provide proper food for the crew of the ship *T. F. Oakes*, on the voyage from Hongkong to New York, brought in a verdict of: not guilty.

#### FORMOSA REFORMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Taipeifu, 30th June.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Baron Nogi, Governor-General of Formosa, has departed for Tokyo for a reported stay of a month or so. It has been rumoured about, however, that the special object of his visit is to hand in his resignation, in consequence of the attack on Taipeh by the rioters some weeks ago. This may be so. Many of the Japanese newspapers, I believe, consider that he, as the highest officer of the Formosan Administration which has given such a vivid example of its weakness, should resign and admit that he was not equal to the task.

I believe that I am voicing the views of the whole foreign community, missionaries included, and the better class of Chinese when I state it is considered that to recall Lieut.-General Nogi at this critical period would be a great calamity to the island. There has never been in Formosa a man so generally respected as His Excellency. The most virulent foreign writers, the most complaining of the respectable Chinese, none have had one word of complaint to say against him.

I can conceive of no more effective way of making affairs in the island worse than they are at present than by changing the two or three higher officials. During the two years of Japanese administration in the island we have had three Governors, all good men, but each bringing forth his own ideas and putting them into execution to the detriment of the Chinese, who were so constantly subjected to change of system, the imposition of new regulations, etc., that they knew not where they stood and trade was thrown in confusion. I believe that the Chinese would have no opposition to a little mild oppression were they allowed to carry on their usual vocations without official interference. But the Japanese with the best of intentions desires to give them the extent of freedom and equality enjoyed upon the mainland and accordingly introduces them to the intricacies of law and a mass of regulations, a great many of which are of course absolutely necessary. But the Chinese, whose experience with officials in their own land has been far from pleasant, place all Japanese officials in the same category and the sight of a policeman with a note book very nearly throws them into hysterics. It is this dread of everything official that makes it so often difficult to inflict punishment upon guilty parties when the Chinese are the victims. As an example; a few weeks ago a Japanese coolie was arrested for beating a Chinese. The Chinese in question was told to follow to the Prefectural Police office, which he did. But after his arrival he was in such a great funk [that] it was necessary to postpone the examination until the Chinese could make a plain statement. This was explained to him fully, but no sooner was he released than he fled and has not again been seen there to this day.

Under General Nogi many reforms were introduced, peculating officers were arrested to a considerable number, and Formosa residents were hoping at last to see peace and order restored when the attack on Twatutia occurred.

While the country is still disturbed and rumours of attacks by bandits are constant, Twatutia has not again been troubled and the Japanese are keeping a closer guard on the settlement.

It seems to be the desire in Japan to place the blame on the shoulders of some one official and the Japanese press have apparently selected Lieut.-General Nogi, the Governor-General, for the burden, while the main government has, I believe, criticised Mr. Hashiguchi, Taipeh Prefect, and severely censured Commander-in-Chief Major-General Nakage.

Neither Governor-General Nogi or Prefect Hashiguchi is to blame, and to one who views affairs from the outside it would seem that the main government in Tokio could with much propriety shoulder a large portion of it.

The area of Formosa is nearly 15,000 miles square, every mile of which, excluding that part occupied by the savages, contains some enemies of Japan.

It has been considered necessary to place all under Japanese administration and there are not troops nor policeman enough to give each



district the number it requires. I believe this has often been pointed out to the main government, perhaps even by the two officers above mentioned. The members of the Diet cannot understand the situation at all by viewing affairs from Tokyo.

The fact, unpleasant as it is, must be faced: the Chinese throughout the island generally dislike the Japanese. This will no doubt in the future be changed for the better. The Chinese must, in time, see that the intentions of the Japanese are the best and that the advantages of civilization and education, etc., are given them for their benefit. However, the present is to be considered. The situation must be reckoned with as it is, not as it ought to be. More troops, more gendarmes, and more police are needed, and the police should be selected not from raw recruits but be picked up from the police now on duty in Japan and be old and trusted men.

The attack on Twatutia was beneficial in one way, and that was, that it taught a lesson to the Japanese and exposed to them their own weakness. Governor-General Nogi and every other officer in North Formosa has profited by it. It has been instruction to them. They are better able to cope with similar disturbances in the future. But one Chinese street in the market place suffered on that occasion. Had the mob's numbers been greatly increased, and it must be admitted that there was plenty of material to draw from, the mob might have gone the five blocks further and entered the walls of the capital. As it was they confined themselves to the rich merchants and then escaped, but not, however, without serious loss.

Now that the lesson has been learnt and taken to heart, it is suggested by some of the press that the Governor-General shall be recalled.

I should say that it was now all the more necessary that he should stay. He is known to be a man of courage, common sense, and energy. Experience is of prime necessity but can only be obtained with time.

Let the central Government keep "hands off" the Governor-General and his reforms. The Chinese will with time absorb the new regulations, and when they find that they are lasting and that not what is per regulations to-day is against regulations to-morrow, all will be well and good in the island and reflect to the credit of the Empire.

#### THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.30 p.m. on the 8th inst. Present:—Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), H. Smith (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, F. Jackson, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### HONGKONG'S CONTRIBUTION TO EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 2nd July, in reply to the Chamber's letter on above subject of the 5th June, stating that the views of the Chamber have been communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

#### PROPOSED MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALL VESSELS ENTERING HONGKONG.

The report of the Special Committee of gentlemen intimately connected with shipping, who had accepted the invitation to act, having been received on the 5th July, was laid on the table and considered. It was decided to adopt this report, but, pending reference as to the one recommendation in the Committee's letter, it was decided to defer reply to the Government's letter until receipt of the desired information.

#### PROPOSED CAPITATION TAX ON CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE STRAITS.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 19th June, transmitting copy of a letter from the Government of the Straits Settlements, in which it was announced that the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of Immigrants' Examination Depots had been withdrawn, but H.E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements traversed the contention of the Chamber that such a tax as that proposed would deprive Singapore of its status as a free port.

#### THE PROPOSED EXTENSION SEAWARDS OF THE NAVAL YARD.

A letter from the Government forwarding copy of a despatch from Commodore Holland on the above subject was read. The Commodore, having taken the opinion of experts, is satisfied that the reclamation will not affect the fairway or cause silting up of the foreshore to any extent, but in the event of any silting he stated, under reserve, his belief that the Admiralty would take any remedial measures that might be necessary.

Resolved to reply to effect that the Chamber were glad to receive the Commodore's assurances, and trusted that the Admiralty would, if need arose, give full effect to same.

#### THE CONSULAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST RIVER PORTS.

A letter received on the 14th June from Mr. Consul Brennan, of Canton, announcing that Mr. J. W. Jamieson had proceeded to Wuchow for the purpose of establishing a British Consular office at that port; acknowledgment had been made and copies of letter supplied to local Press.

#### THE LIGHT DUES.

A letter from the Greenock Chamber of Commerce, dated 11th May, in acknowledgment of the Chamber's circular letter of 28th Jan., had been received, and copies of same supplied to local Press for publication.

#### THE IMPORT OF INDIAN YARN INTO TONKIN.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 5th July, handing copy of a despatch from the French Consul announcing that he had received a telegram from the Governor-General of Indo-China to the effect that the prohibition of the import of Indian cotton yarn had been removed, and that it would, after being disinfected, be again allowed to enter Tonkin ports.

(Correspondence.)

#### THE MAIL SUBSIDY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo on the subject of the Eastern Mail Service, and to state that the views of the Chamber of Commerce in regard thereto have been communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

#### CAPITATION TAX ON IMMIGRANTS IN THE STRAITS.

Colonial Secretary's Office  
Hongkong 18th June 1897.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo relative to the proposal of the Government of the Straits Settlements to levy a capitation tax on Chinese Immigrants, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements on the subject.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Singapore, 10th June, 1897.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 821 of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be good enough to inform the Hongkong Chamber that the Bill referred to in their letter has been withdrawn and that the funds required for the erection of examination depôts will be otherwise provided for.

2.—The Governor, however, desires me to point out that the complaint brought forward is based on a false premise, i.e., that a tax on individual Chinese immigrants into the Straits Settlements is necessarily a tax on shipping. Competition might possibly bring this to pass, but that is an intertrade matter; the assertion that such a tax would deprive Singapore of its

status as a free port appears to the Governor to be quite illogical.—I have, &c.,

(Sd.) C. W. KYNNESELEY,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To Honourable The Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

#### PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE NAVAL YARD.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 5th July, 1897.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 14th May last I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a letter from the Commodore relative to the proposed extension of the Naval Yard.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. G. T. BUCKLE,  
p. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

"Victor Emmanuel" at Hongkong.  
30th June, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 18th May last regarding the extension of the Royal Naval Yard and the possible consequences, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that very careful consideration has been given to the subject by the Naval experts, and the conclusion they have come to, in which I concur, is that:—

(1).—The extension of the Naval Yard will not affect the fairway through the man-of-war anchorage.

(2).—That it is improbable any serious silting will take place in consequence of the reclamation extending beyond the Praya.

(3).—That if any silting should take place it will be within a very limited area to Westward of the Naval Yard.

(4).—Should such occur and be clearly attributable to the extension, the Admiralty would probably be ready to take such steps to remedy it as will prove necessary, but I can only mention this as a probability, because I have no official authority to make a direct statement.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) SWINTON C. HOLLAND,  
Commodore.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,  
G.C.M.G. Hongkong.

#### IMPORTATION OF INDIAN YARN IN TONKIN.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 5th July, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a letter from the Consul for France relative to the importation into Tonkin of Indian Cotton yarns.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. G. T. BUCKLE,  
p. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, le 5 Juillet, 1897.

Monsieur le Secrétaire de la Colonie,—  
J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que j'ai reçu ce jour de M. le Gouverneur-Général de l'Indo-Chine le télégramme suivant:—

"Coton brut et fils coton provenance Inde peuvent entrer Tonkin, seront désinfectés arrivés."

J'apprends avec plaisir l'adoption de cette mesure que j'avais proposée dans le but de faciliter les relations entre ce port et le Tonkin. Veuillez agréer, le Secrétaire de la Colonie, les assurances de ma haute considération.

(signed.) LEON GME. LE ROUX.

To the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 7th July, 1897.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter No. 1056, dated 5th inst., transmitting for the information of this Chamber copy of a letter from the French Consul relative to the importation into Tonkin of Indian Cotton Yarn.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.



Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 9th July, 1897.

Sir—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 1054, of the 5th inst., forwarding copy of a letter from Commodore Holland relative to the proposed extension of the Naval Yard seawards.

My Committee note with satisfaction the assurances given under reserve by the Commodore, and trust that in the event of remedial measures becoming necessary in consequence of any silting up of the foreshore the Admiralty will give full effect to those assurances.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

### THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at the offices of the Chamber on Monday, the 5th of July, 1897, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. C. J. Dudgeon (Vice-Chairman, presiding), Wade Gardner, F. W. Koch, A. Korff, W. D. Little, E. Shellim, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the lasting meeting were read and confirmed.

**Revision of Tariff.**—A letter on this subject from the Hongkong Chamber was laid before the meeting, together with the reply sent, and both were ordered to be published.

**The Bank of China and Japan, Ltd., and Chinese Shareholders.**—A letter from the Acting Manager of the Bank was read, calling the attention of the Chamber to the position of the Bank as regards its native shareholders, in consequence of the Taotai having expressed his inability to enforce contracts between Chinese and foreigners, and his refusal to enter into the question. It was resolved to address the Senior Consul on the subject without entering into particulars of the Bank case, pointing out the gravity of the situation, in that the decision of the Taotai imperilled all transactions between Chinese and foreigners.

**The River Approaches to Shanghai.**—A letter from M. Bard was laid before the meeting, enclosing a letter from M. Chollot offering to submit to the Chamber a plan for the improvement of the River Approaches to Shanghai which had been prepared by him, and it was decided to reply that the Committee would be very pleased to receive same on the terms proposed by M. Chollot.

After the transaction of other business, Messrs. J. L. Scott, H. Gribble and Ph. Arnold, representing various Sectional Committees on the Taxation of Foreign Trade, were introduced, and the following sectional reports were read:—

- On general exports,
- On piece goods,
- On sundry imports.

(Correspondence.)

#### REVISION OF TARIFF.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 8th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—I understand that your Chamber has been requested by the Foreign Office to report on the question of the increase in the Chinese Tariff. Will you kindly favour this Chamber with a copy of the despatch in which such request was made?—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

Drummond Hay, Esq., Secretary, Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.

Shanghai, 17th June, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your favour of 8th inst. I have to inform you that this Chamber has never been requested by the Foreign Office to report upon the question of the increase of the Chinese Tariff, but, with the approval of the Foreign Representatives at Peking, enquiries have been made into trade questions generally, and exhaustive reports have been made—or are in course of being made—on the principal sections of foreign trade and the incidence of taxation by specially appointed

Committees, and when completed I shall be pleased to forward you the results of their labours.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

DRUMMOND HAY,  
Secretary.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

THE BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LD.,  
AND CHINESE SHAREHOLDERS.

Shanghai, 24th June, 1897.

Sir—I desire to bring to the notice of your Chamber the recent decisions of the Chinese Courts in the matter of calls due from native shareholders of the Bank of China and Japan, Ltd., and especially to invite attention to the bearing of those decisions upon the general interests of the foreign community of Shanghai.

Proceedings were recently instituted in the Shanghai Mixed Court against two Chinese for the recovery of calls made in the liquidation of the Bank. The persons proceeded against had signed the usual forms of transfer, the names had been duly entered on the register, and not only had all the conditions of legal liability been fully satisfied, but the defendants had, in addition, signed special agreements undertaking to pay calls on their shares and also agreeing that all questions between them and the Bank should be decided in accordance with the law of England. Nevertheless, both the Magistrate of the Mixed Court and the Taotai of Shanghai declined to hear the cases, and the Bank has been obliged to have recourse to H.B.M. Minister. I may add that Sir Claude Macdonald has satisfied himself of the justice of the Bank's claims and has promised that he will do what he can to obtain their enforcement. The enclosed memoranda (2) show clearly the history and present position of the matter.

I have already mentioned that each of the Chinese against whom suits have been commenced, has signed one or more special agreements with regard to his shares, and it has not, therefore, been necessary for the Bank in these two cases to insist upon the undoubtedly binding character of the ordinary instruments of transfer. It would seem, however, that if special agreements, such as those above referred to, are not enforceable, little if any weight is to be attached to the provisions contained in ordinary application or transfer forms, so far as they purport to bind native applicants or transferees, and the conclusion apparently follows that Foreign Companies have no security for the performance by Chinese shareholders of the obligations incident to their position.

Under these circumstances it can hardly be necessary for me to urge upon your Chamber the adoption of measures calculated to protect the interests which are so seriously menaced.

The decision of the Taotai, based upon the construction of the Treaty between Great Britain and China, stands at present unreversed, and, if my view is correct, can be used as a precedent for relieving Chinese of their liability, not only to the numerous Foreign Companies of which they are registered Shareholders, but to private individuals under transactions relating to purchases of shares, such transactions being presumably tainted with the illegality which attaches to actual membership.

The same decision viewed broadly as a refusal to enforce a written agreement is capable of even a wider application, and it is hardly too much to say that it throws a doubt on the validity of all written agreements between Foreigners and Chinese, with the possible exception of those which relate to matters specifically mentioned in Treaties.

The position taken up by the Taotai of Shanghai (*vide* his despatch—Appendix E. of memorandum No 2) is clearly untenable, and I venture to hope that your Chamber, regarding the possible effect of his decision upon commercial interests generally, will protest against it in the proper quarter.

I beg to enclose 8 additional copies each of the two memoranda above referred to for the information of your committee in case of need, and remain, sir, your obedient servant,

S. L. DARBY,  
Acting Manager.

The Chairman of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

### INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

The following is the fifteenth annual report of the board of directors of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Limited, presented to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting, held at the offices of the Company, on 17th June:—

The Board of Directors submit herewith their Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1896.

The results of the year's working unfortunately compare very unfavourably with the earnings of the two previous years, and reference to the accounts will show how materially the receipts have been reduced.

This shrinkage is attributable to the low freights ruling, owing to the competition to which the local Companies were subjected by an unusual influx of tonnage from Europe working on the Coast Lines, and to the number of vessels in Japan waters released from the requirements of the late war. General trade was also dull, and in particular there was a great diminution in the movement of Rice and other grain from the Yangtze valley both to northern and southern ports.

The Directors are glad to say that the current year, 1897, has opened with brighter prospects, and it is hoped the improvement will be maintained.

In the Balance Sheet the China Assets are calculated as before at 2s. 1d. per dollar, a rate under the average exchange of the year. Since December, however, a decline has taken place, and provision has accordingly been made for a probable reduction in the average of 1897 by transferring the gain in Exchange Account £3,919 4s. 11d. to an Exchange Reserve, which will be chargeable with any difference in the rate.

From the accretions of Underwriting Account £16,318 17s. 3d. has been transferred to Revenue, thus enabling full depreciation on the fleet to be provided for. Unfortunately, however, the earnings do not admit of any dividend being paid on the present occasion, and the balance of profit, £1,380 16s. 3d., is therefore carried forward to next year.

In connection with the *On Wo* disaster, noticed in the last report, litigation has been going on, and a final settlement has not yet been arrived at. This is the only total loss of the year, and after allowing for the transfer above referred to and meeting all claims upon it, the underwriting Account is left with a satisfactory balance of £90,000.

For the year 1897 we have had one serious accident, the steamer *Yik Sang* having run ashore on the coast of Japan. She was got off with difficulty and brought into Nagasaki, where a considerable amount will have to be expended in repairs.

All the efforts of the Directors to press for a settlement of the *Kow Shing* claim have as yet failed to obtain the desired result, principally on account of the prolonged illness of the late Chinese Minister in London. The case is now before the new Minister, who was already acquainted with its circumstances, and everything possible will be done to bring about a satisfactory settlement.

The additions to the fleet in 1896 are the *Fau Sang*, *Chun Sang*, and *Sui Wo*, all mentioned in the Board's last report. The *Sui Wo* is the boat built for the Yangtze, on which line she is now plying.

Mr. Thomas Reid and Mr. William Paterson are the directors who retire at this meeting, and being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election.

The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., will likewise be proposed for re-election.

By Order of the Board,  
J. MACANDREW, Chairman.

London, 9th June, 1897

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
LIABILITIES.			
To share capital:—Authorized £1,200,000,			
first issue 80,000 each £10, whereof 49,589			
subscribed and fully paid-up .....	495,890	0	0
To balance of underwriting account .....	90,000	0	0
To sundry creditors in London and China .....	8,969	0	0
To loans .....	65,770	0	0
To bills payable .....	85,312	10	0
To exchange reserve account .....	3,919	4	11
To balance from revenue account .....	1,380	16	3

2751,241 11 2



## CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

July 15, 1897.]

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
By steamships, hulks, ferry boats &c.	714,994	0	0	
Less depreciation written off for this year	40,250	0	0	
		674,744	0	0
[This includes the value of steamer "Kow Shing," claimed from the Chinese Government.]				
By coals and provisions on board ships and in godowns	6,767	9	3	
By office furniture	90	0	0	
By sundry debtors in London and China, agents' balances, freights, &c.	64,172	4	6	
By cash in London and China	5,467	17	5	
		£751,241	11	2
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		£	s.	d.
Dr.				
To general charges, telegrams, directors' and auditors' fees	5,508	7	1	
To depreciation account—				
On steamships, &c.	40,250	0	0	
On office furniture	10	0	0	
		40,260	0	0
To interest account	4,207	18	7	
To exchange transferred to exchange reserve account	3,919	4	11	
To balance-transferred to balance sheet	1,380	16	3	
		£55,276	6	10
Cr.				
By balance brought forward from 1895	6,066	13	7	
By net earnings of steamers for the year	28,956	6	1	
By exchange account	3,919	4	11	
By transfer fees	15	5	0	
By amount transferred from underwriting account	16,318	17	3	
		£55,276	6	10

## BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED.

The following is the second annual report presented to the annual meeting held on the 18th June:—

The Directors herewith present to the Shareholders the Report and Accounts, duly audited, to December 31st, 1896.

It will be observed from the date of the auditor's certificate that these accounts have been completed for some time, but their issue has been delayed to await the return of the Managing Director from the East, and to complete the negotiation of the debenture referred to below.

The amount at credit of profit amounts to the sum of £834 3s. 6d., after providing for London office and other expenses.

The Directors are not dissatisfied with the progress achieved during the year, but, owing to the necessity for additional funds for the conduct of the Company's business, they do not consider it advisable at the present time to declare a dividend, but recommend that one-third of the original amount of preliminary expenses be written off, say £267 10s., and the amount of £100 be written off the Singapore suspense account (the cost of opening the branch there), and that the sum of £135 13s. 10d. be transferred to profit and loss new account.

In the autumn of last year Mr. F. A. Waylen left for the Far East, to establish a branch at Singapore. As business was not commenced until the close of the year, it has been decided by the directors to place the whole of the expenses and stock of this branch to a suspense account.

The Directors have for some time felt the requirement of larger funds for the development of the Company's business. They have therefore, under the powers conferred by the Articles of Association, issued a Debenture for £5,000, carrying interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum. The Directors have agreed to the nomination of a Director on the Board by the Debenture-holders, and Mr. George Wm. Giles has been appointed a Director in the place of Mr. Wm. Robe Jenkins, who has retired.

For the more efficient conduct of the Company's business, the Board considered it advisable to appoint Mr. F. A. Waylen, the founder of the Company, Managing Director.

Under the provisions of the Articles of Association, Mr. A. G. Angier retires from the Board, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Mr. John Cooper, the Auditor, also retires, and offers himself for re-election.  
By order of the Board,

H. W. DAVEY,  
Secretary.

June 9th, 1897.

## BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To authorised capital:—				
10,000 £1 shares	10,000	0	0	
To subscribed capital:—				
3,050 shares, fully paid	3,050	0	0	
5,609 shares, 17/6 paid	4,820	7	6	
		7,870	7	6
Less calls in arrear	219	10	0	
		7,650	17	6
Bills payable		4,175	10	4
Sundry creditors:—				
London	770	11	11	
Hongkong	834	11	11	
Shanghai	2,110	12	6	
		3,715	16	4
To directors' fees (not drawn)		150	0	0
To profit and loss account, subject to adjustment of contra agencies suspense account		135	13	10
		£15,827	18	0
Cr.		£	s.	d.
By cash at Bank and in hand:—				
London	21	5	8	
Hongkong	247	3	9	
Shanghai	323	17	4	
		592	6	9
By London assets:—				
Bills receivable	2,743	17	10	
Sundry debtors	94	2	1	
Office furniture	30	0	0	
		2,867	19	11
By Hongkong agency assets:—				
Stock	1,466	10	5	
Steam launches	480	12	4	
Sundry debtors	391	14	11	
Furniture	59	2	7	
		2,398	0	3
By Shanghai agency assets:—				
Sundry debtors	1,120	11	3	
Stock	3,103	14	8	
Furniture	28	18	3	
		4,253	4	2
By agencies suspense account		232	6	5
By Singapore agency (stock)		1,038	14	2
By Singapore agency suspense account				
Less written off	350	0	0	
	100	0	0	
		250	0	0
By purchase of trading rights		3,000	0	0
By goods in transit:—				
Shanghai	709	7	8	
Hongkong	218	8	8	
		927	16	4
By preliminary expenses	535	0	0	
Less written off	267	10	0	
		267	10	0
		£15,827	18	0

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To trade expenses		267	15	1
To London office		138	18	0
To advertisements		50	6	10
To ten per cent. depreciation on furniture		4	5	9
		£461	5	8
To balance (profit)		834	3	6
		£1,295	9	2
Cr.		£	s.	d.
To income tax paid		£12	16	8
To preliminary expenses written off		267	10	0
To preliminary expenses Singapore branch		100	0	0
To auditors' fees for 1895 and 1896		21	0	0
To directors' fees (not drawn)		150	0	0
To managing director's remuneration		149	3	0
		£698	9	8
To balance carried forward		135	13	10
		£834	3	6
Cr.		£	s.	d.
By balance brought from last account		47	0	3
By profit on London sales	£122	9	4	
By profit on Hongkong sales	509	18	7	
By profit on Shanghai sales	121	12	9	
		754	0	8
By commission		364	19	5
By discounts, &c.	149	5	2	
Less interest on loans	26	3	10	
		123	1	4
By transfer fees		6	7	6
		£1,295	9	2
By balance (profit)		£834	3	6
By balance carried forward		£135	13	10

## THE MYSTERY OF THE "UNEBI-KAN."

## A CLUE FOUND.

It will be remembered that in the summer of 1886 the *Unebi-kan*, a cruiser built in France for the Japanese Government, reached Singapore safely, but after leaving that port for Japan was never heard of again. It was believed that she was overtaken by a typhoon, and foundered with all hands. This belief has now been confirmed by Japanese Government officials on the Pescadores. The *Yomiuri* says that in the course of a tour of inspection of Fisher Island recently the Superintendent of Police found one of the natives using what was evidently the cabin door of a steamer as a door for his house. Upon inquiry as to where it came from, the natives said that about seven or eight years ago a large steamer was wrecked off the coast, and the door formed part of the wreckage washed up. He showed some other portions of debris to the Superintendent, among them a box with the words "Yokosuka Chinju-fu Iryokwa" (Clothes and Provision Office, Yokosuka Port Admiralty), a wooden European trunk, two cabin doors painted in white and gold, and a flag-box.

On the 6th June the official with his colleague and an interpreter again visited the place and made further inquiries, and as the result of investigations still proceeding there appears to be little doubt that the wreckage belonged to the *Unebikan*, which was probably caught in a typhoon and wrecked off the Pescadores, not a single man escaping to tell the tale.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

## THE MYSTERY OF THE "UNEBI-KAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The interesting article under this heading which you reproduced from a Japan paper seems to fit in with some accounts of shipwreck given me by the Rev. W. Campbell, of Formosa, who spent a month on the Pescadores in 1893, soon after the deplorable wreck of the *Bokhara* and *Norman*. I was so confident that one wreck was that of the *Unebi Kan* that I reported it to the Japanese Consul here, also to the Naval Authorities. The story as given me by Mr. Campbell, who got it from the natives of the Northern Islands of the Pescadores, was that in rough weather in the spring of 1886 two fishermen saw on a submerged reef to the N.W. of the N.W. Outlier a number of men, described by them as several hundred, who made frantic gesticulations for them to come and save them, but owing to the rough sea and the numbers on the reef they were afraid to approach. They then returned home with the news and when boats set out next day not a man was to be seen. The natives described these men as small of stature and dark and thought they were Malays or Japanese.

The natives gave Mr. Campbell many other accounts of shipwreck in which there were no survivors but a veritable windfall in wreckage, which they never made any fuss about. There is no doubt that many valuable ships and lives have been lost on the Northern Pescadores, particularly sailing ships, whose fate has never been known. The interesting relics found by the police officer on the Pescadores leave no doubt but that the *Unebi Kan* was lost in that neighbourhood; but why in a typhoon? for it was not the typhoon season.

Mr. Campbell was so positive of the existence of an unknown reef to the westward of the Pescadores that I reported it at the time and again in 1896, when I got the approximate position from a Japanese transport. I understand the reef has been searched for, but surely a few dollars to the fishermen, who are said to know its position well, would save much trouble and give us the position of a reef lying almost in the track of vessels taking a mid-channel course. If this reef is known to the Japanese



naval authorities why is it not on our charts?  
—Yours, etc.

A. V. HODGINS.  
Hongkong, 8th July, 1897.

### THE "UNEHI-KAN" MYSTERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—With reference to the letter in your issue of to-day's date over the signature A. V. Hodgins, I would point out that your correspondent appears to be under a misapprehension as to when the *Unehi-kan* was lost. I was in the Canal with her when she was on her voyage out and she left Singapore about the same time as the P. & O. steamer *Surat*, I think the day before. The *Surat* arrived in Hongkong on the 3rd December, 1886, after a very rough passage up.

H. L. D.

Hongkong, 10th July, 1897.

[The *Unehi-kan* left Singapore on the 5th December, 1886.—ED. D. P.]

### THE CUSTOMS REPORTS.

#### CURRENCY CHANGES

#### PROSPECTS OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

The Customs Reports for the 1896 have been issued at Shanghai. No copy has yet reached this office, but from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report we take the following interesting notice:—

The Trade Reports for the year 1896 have been published by the Statistical Department of the Inspectorate General of Customs, and extra interest is added to them by a description of the resources of the new Treaty Ports that were opened last Autumn. Except that it is a step in the direction of a general opening up of the country it does not appear at present that the Foreign import trade will derive any particular benefit from these concessions, on the contrary the tendency seems to be to develop the native manufacture of yarns, etc. However, it is too early yet to judge what the result will be.

The currency question is most prominent in nearly all the reports and is exercising an important bearing on the Import trade of the country. A few extracts will be interesting to those engaged in this trade. The Hankow Commissioner writes:—"Unless measures be quickly taken to meet the growing scarcity of cash, great public inconvenience will arise in the near future. Much cash was buried for safety during the Taiping Rebellion, and the secretors having been exterminated it is, with trifling and casual exceptions, irretrievably lost. Very little cash has been coined for many years, the population has greatly increased since the Rebellion, and facilities of transport have caused a large development of trade. A few years since a good deal of cash was openly smelted for making brass pots, pipes, etc., as cash was then much cheaper *vis-a-vis* silver. Severe measures were taken to prevent this illegal proceeding. It is now impossible to find out if the practice still obtains to any extent, but the increasing value of cash with regard to silver has probably put a stop to it. Cash are made of brass, not copper. Brass is a mixture of about 60 per cent. copper and 40 per cent. spelter. 1,000 good cash smelted weigh  $7\frac{1}{2}$  catties;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  catties of brass cost at least 1,330 cash; therefore, if a man wants to make  $7\frac{1}{2}$  catties of brass pipes he can do so by smelting 1,000 cash, instead of buying copper and spelter for 1,330 cash. Whether this practice is still followed is uncertain, but a saving of 330 cash on  $7\frac{1}{2}$  catties of brass is a high premium. A few years ago a dollar was worth nearly 1,200 cash. The lowest rate it touched in 1896 was about 840, and signs are not wanting that in the very near future it will be worth a great deal less. Europeans in receipt of salaries paid in silver who a few years ago could save, and entertain reasonable hope of some day retiring, now find it difficult to meet current expenditure, and life is often embittered by the knowledge that this financial stress is not borne in order to secure ultimate repose, but to prolong the sojourn abroad until it leads to old age and penury. The cheapness of silver with regard to gold has hitherto almost entirely affected Foreign residents, but now even native servants, who are paid in silver, find their

pittance rapidly dwindling, and the complaint is becoming frequent that after years service their wages are insufficient to buy rice."

The Wuhu Commissioner writes on the same subject:—"The highest exchange rate for one dollar was 960 cash, and the lowest, 850 cash. It is stated that one *tiao* (a nominal thousand) of standard cash will produce, on meltage, 7 catties of good copper, which can be sold for 300 to 400 cash per catty on the lowest estimate, thus insuring a gross profit of at least 110 per cent. Furthermore, it is stated that 1,000 large cash will provide sufficient copper to make, when freely adulterated, from 6,000 to 10,000 spurious cash, these being invariably introduced into the strings of better cash in larger or smaller quantities, which are to a certain extent regulated by the traditions of the trade, but are also in a great measure dependent upon the relative "bluffing" powers of payer and payee. Hence it will be seen that the incentives to divert the copper currency from its legitimate uses have been strong enough to bring about a dearth in the circulating medium; and, in fact, so scarce had it become at the beginning of 1896 that the Superintendent of Customs found it necessary to issue a proclamation on the 4th January prohibiting its export and restricting the quantity to be carried by any one traveller to 30,000 cash, which limit was subsequently reduced to 10,000 by the Provincial Treasurer."

And Chinkiang the following:—"It is to be hoped that during 1897 the authorities will devise some useful measure to increase the supply of copper cash. The scarcity of cash has caused very great embarrassment all round, and remedial measures are urgently needed to alleviate this distress. Formerly 1,050 cash were procurable for a dollar, now a dollar will scarcely realise 900 cash."

These are only a few of the remarks, but the subject is touched upon by all the others, for instance Ningpo mentions the dollar has fallen to 780 cash against 1,050 formerly. Newchwang makes it 755. Tientsin gives no quotation but notices the appreciation. Chefoo remarks:—"Cash during the year were dear, the exchange for the dollar being at a time as low as 860 and seldom over 900 cash"—and so on.

With regard to the yarn and piece goods trade, the Newchwang report mentions the shipments of yarn direct from Hongkong, in lieu of via Shanghai, owing to the saving of freight chiefly, 50,187 piculs out of a total of 157,867 piculs going that way. In 1894 only some 7,000 piculs were thus imported. "For cotton piece goods the demand was brisk. Prices started high, but an exuberant supply reset them to their ordinary level, stocks held in godown are comparatively light" (at the close of the year). "American drills and sheetings regained their former predominance, and Chinese shirtings and sheetings have sprung into prominence; these fabrics of the Eastern looms afford an encouraging prospect to an eye inclined to regard the field of industry as a field for all."

The large increase in the import of cotton goods to Tientsin is accounted for by "the desire of inland dealers to made good the deficiencies caused by a run on their stocks during and after the war. A bad harvest of native cotton may also have had something to do with it. . . . Of the goods which grow in importance American drills and sheetings are the most prominent, cotton yarn has almost doubled the preceding years' figures, the Indian and Japanese varieties showing the largest increase." Very little of these yarns go direct to Tientsin, but more than 50 per cent. of the English spinnings is shipped direct. The direct trade with Chefoo is also increasing, more than 30 per cent. of the Indian and 20 per cent. of the Japanese yarn reaching it in that way, which must mean loss of freight to the local steamer lines.

The following is an extract from the Chungking report:—"The most noticeable feature in the Foreign import trade is the great rise in Indian yarn, which reached 166,636 piculs, an increase over the 1895 total of 52,080 piculs. It is reported that the Hupeh province cotton crop sustained great damage from the heavy rains and flooding of the country; hence, in anticipation of short deliveries from that province, both in raw material and Cloth, the increased demand for Indian yarn. This yarn,

as one may surmise, is much in favour with the Szechwanese on account of its fineness and durability, and is therefore now disposed of not only in the big cities but also in the villages and farmsteads throughout the province. The local price obtainable averaged from Tls.80 to Tls.100 per picul, some 10 to 15 per cent. above the quotations of the previous year. It is said that the lowering of the steamer rates between Hankow and Ichang is another cause of the activity in the yarn trade. But for the short deliveries on account of the delay at the new rapid, the result of our piece goods trade would have been more satisfactory. As it is some 630,000 pieces of cotton goods and 30,000 pieces of Woollens were landed, representing an aggregate value of about Hk. Tls.2,000,000, or a diminution of about 10 per cent. on the preceding year's importation."

Shasi, one of the new Treaty Ports, "is the largest market in Central China for native cotton cloth. The spinning of Yarn and the weaving of cloth are the chief domestic industries carried on here and in neighbouring places. Local merchants buy the cloth on the market, where it is brought by the individual weavers; they then assort it and resell to retailers or ship it off. A market for the sale of cotton cloth is held daily in the early morning. The export of this fabric constitutes by far the most important trade of the port. Szechwan takes most of this Cloth, but large quantities are also sent to Yunnan (via Chungking), Kweichow, and Kwangtung. All the cloth sent to Szechwan is plain white, whilst the exports to Yunnan, Kweichow, and Kwangtung consist principally of dyed. Indigo is grown largely in the neighbouring districts and is almost exclusively used for dyeing the locally woven textile. The exports of cottons to Szechwan, Yunnan, Kweichow, and Kwangtung are estimated at about 150,000 piculs, but it is likely that this figure is below rather than above the actual quantity that goes forward. No foreign yarn is used in weaving this cloth. A few years ago a beginning was made to use Foreign yarn, but the attempt was quickly abandoned on the peremptory order of the Cotton Cloth Dealers' Association. The cloth is woven in pieces of 38 and 28 feet long; the former is called *Ta Pu* and the latter *Hsiao Pu*. The width of the *Ta Pu* is 11 to 12 inches (Chinese); that of the *Hsiao Pu*, 9 inches. There are three qualities—best, middle, and course,—and each quality has again its subdivisions. The Cloth is generally packed in bales containing 40 to 50 pieces or as required. In making up the cargo of a junk, the native cloth constitutes the dead weight, and the light cargo is mostly made up of bales of the raw cotton. The export of cotton cloth, which, as has been stated above, forms the principal trade of the port, is entirely controlled by the Likin Office and does not come under the cognizance of this Office.

The trade here in Foreign piece goods is not very important; it is a retail business. Dealers get their supplies from Hankow and do not keep large stocks." \* \* \* "Shasi has the elements for a large manufacturing centre, and it is to be hoped that in no distant future factories, notably cotton mills, may be established here."

In the Hankow report the following shows that no progress is being made with the native made piece goods, but yarns are increasing:—"During the year under review goods made by the Hupeh Cotton Mill Company were exported in the following quantities:—Cotton yarn, 18,868 piculs, against 7,263 piculs in 1895; drills, 1,560 pieces, against 4,255 pieces; and shirtings, 72,980 pieces, against 94,690 pieces."

The large increase in imports of Foreign goods and yarns in Kiukiang is mentioned, but it is pointed out that raw cotton is hardly introduced at all, so that Foreign products must prove satisfactory to the consumers' requirements.

In the Chinkiang report a rather curious statement is made, namely, the scarcity of money at the latter part of the year is accounted for by "the payment of an instalment of the indemnity due to Japan (!) Money became very scarce and high rates had to be paid for it. This state of affairs caused several houses to close their business, it being impossible to obtain advances except at a ruinous rate!"



July 15, 1897.]

## CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

It only remains to notice the following remarks from Ningpo:—"The advance in Cotton piece goods shows itself mainly in grey shirtings and T-cloths, which, with 929,655 pieces (including 10,000 pieces from the Hankow and Shanghai mills), have made a rapid stride in favour—particularly noticeable, as it coincides with a remarkable increase in the consumption of machine-made cotton yarn, of which 18,600 piculs were imported, against 62 piculs in 1889, and at least 10,000 piculs put on the market by the local mill. Of the 18,000 piculs imported, the Indian mills supplied nearly 12,000 piculs; Japan 4,793 piculs and the Shanghai factories, only 1,381 piculs. This last figure shows a decline, for during the previous year the Shanghai mills sent us 3,963 piculs." And this is what is said of the mill now running there:—"The Tung-chiu-yuan Cotton Mill, referred to in the Report for 1895 as nearly complete, commenced spinning in June 1896 and has since worked day and night with little intermission. It employs some 750 factory hands—chiefly women and all natives of the locality,—in addition to overseers and artisans, the machinery being under the supervision of a Foreigner. The monthly output is said to be 250,000 lbs. of yarn of counts 10, 12, 14, and 16. The yarn sells readily in the local market at \$2.30 per 10 lb. package, counts 12 and 16 being most in demand. It is chiefly consumed in the neighbourhood, but a certain quantity is sent in junks to Fuhkien. In spite of the recent relatively high price of Cotton, spinning has proved extremely profitable, and I am informed that 6,000 spindles are to be added shortly to the 11,043 now at work. The mill has accommodation for looms, which it is not intended to utilise at present."

## THE SHANGHAI TAOTAI AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The following letter, which is printed with the minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council, explains itself:—

Municipal Council,  
Shanghai, 26th June, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to request that you may be good enough to convey to H.E. the Taotai the expression of the Council's sincere regret at the unfortunate *contretemps* which prevented His Excellency from attending the *fête* at H.B.M. Consulate-General on the 22nd instant. The Council desires that it may be explained to His Excellency that, for the convenience and protection of natives and foreigners alike, it was necessary to suspend all vehicular traffic along the Bund and adjoining streets on the day of the festivities; further, that at the express desire of H.B.M. Consul-General, no carriages were allowed to enter the Consulate grounds. Owing to an unfortunate oversight, which cannot be sufficiently deplored, no arrangements were come to for making an exception to this rule in the case of His Excellency's conveyance, and the constables on duty, not recognising His Excellency and in the absence of instructions carried out the Municipal Regulation in its entirety.

The Council trust that His Excellency will accept this explanation of a most regrettable incident.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A. R. BURKILL,  
Chairman.

To Dr. O. STUEBEL.

Consul-General for Germany and Senior Consul, Shanghai.

## JAPAN AND THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.

A Tokyo despatch of the 2nd July, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*, says:—Count Okuma has forwarded another dispatch to the United States, in which the previous protest is renewed in strong terms. The gist of the dispatch is said to be as follows:—"The Japanese Government, while expressing the full respect necessary from one friendly nation to another declares that Japan cannot remain silent when she sees measures being taken which are likely to disturb the peace of the Pacific. The Japanese Government is convinced that the independence of Hawaii forms the assurance of such peace, and is prepared to continue its negotiations to the uttermost despite any decision the United States Senate may arrive at."

## H.M.S. IMMORTALITE FIRED ON AT WOOSUNG.

Shanghai, 30th June.

An incident which narrowly escaped giving rise to serious international complications took place early on Monday morning at Woosung. H.M.S. *Immortalite* arrived and anchored outside the Spit buoy on Sunday afternoon and on Monday morning unmoored preparatory to steaming in to the anchorage, when one of the guns in the fort was fired and the shot fell into the water some 200 yards from the ship. This was followed by another, the shot falling still nearer to the *Immortalite*. Thinking, naturally, that he was being fired upon, Captain Chichester had the ship cleared for action, magazines opened and ammunition passed up. The guns were trained on the fort and the ship steamed slowly in to the anchorage with the crew at quarters. No more shots were fired, however, and it was afterwards explained that the guns were fired for the edification of a Chinese official, and that those in charge thought that the *Immortalite* was farther out of range than she really was. Ample apologies were tendered and what might have been a very serious matter ended satisfactorily.—N. C. *Daily News*.

## MISSIONARY OUTRAGES IN CHINA.

Shanghai, 9th July.

It is reported from Hankow that the rowdies of the city of Suichou, Hupeh province, have lately destroyed a missionary chapel in that city and that the subprefect, unable to give efficient help to the missionaries, has appealed to the Viceroy Chang for troops to quell the mob. It is also reported that some of the people of Suichou hearing of this appeal by their sub-prefect went in a body to his *yamen* and defied him to his worst. It is not known whether any missionaries have been hurt or not.

A native correspondent at Chengtu, the provincial Capital of Szechuan, writing under date of the 12th says that as the scholars of the Roman Catholic Latin College of Changshan were being removed with their belongings to their new college, lately erected at a place called Watien, a short distance from the city walls of Chengtu, there suddenly appeared, midway on the journey, a band of eight armed men, who plundered the caravan of everything valuable and then made off into the hills. One carter was severely wounded and a scholar is reported to be missing. The Roman Catholic Bishop has reported the matter to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and the Viceroy Li has promised a reward for the capture of the robbers.—N. C. *Daily News*.

## A FIGHT WITH PIRATES.

Shanghai, 1st July.

A lively brush with pirates is reported from Ningpo. On Wednesday last the Chinese gunboat *Chaowu*, 6 guns, while cruising among the islands of the Chusan Archipelago, anchored in a small bay called Tungshako, where is a large village which was filled with a number of pirates. These no sooner saw the gunboat appear than they began to fire at her with the muzzle-loading 4-pdrs. on board a junk which was lying off shore, while about 100 others lined a sand hill which overlooked and commanded the bay, from which they began a lively fusillade on the men-of-war's men with small arms. In reply, the Commander of the gunboat at once ordered out his boats and sent a landing party of 120 bluejackets, while a few shots from the bow gun of the ship silenced the cannonade from the junk. When the pirates saw the sailors making for land a portion began to scatter inland, but some eighty of the others tried to oppose the landing. A hand-to-hand fight commenced in which two pirates were shot down while a number were wounded. Thirty-six of the pirates were compelled to surrender when surrounded by the sailors, who also took away the junk as a prize. The casualties amongst the sailors were slight.—N. C. *Daily News*.

## THE STEAMER "SULTAN" FLOATED.

Shanghai, 30th June.

Mr. W. B. Buyers, the agent here for the Taku Tug and Lighter Company, received a telegram at 9.30 last night from Chefoo informing him that the steamer *Sultan* was safely floated. It will be remembered that the Norwegian steamer *Sultan*, about the 4th June last, ran on shore on one of the islands in the Pechili Group, and that on the 24th she was sold by auction by Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn & Co., for the sum of Tls. 6,000. The purchasers were the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., who are to be highly congratulated on their success. Mr. J. W. Jamieson, their manager, also deserves much praise, for in five days after the purchase of the vessel she was successfully floated. He evidently lost no time, and must have had everything ready to commence work as soon as he knew that his company were the purchasers. In her present condition she must be fully worth £12,000, so the shareholders of the T. T. & L. Co., have made a "fine haul," and will no doubt be very thankful to Mr. Buyers, who bought it at such a small figure for the Company, and to Mr. Jamieson, their Manager, in floating her so successfully.—*Mercury*.

## MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 9th June.

The work of dredging the harbour has been stopped since Monday last. Many rumours were soon in circulation as to the cause of the sudden cessation. Some said the harbour was already quite clean, others that the engine was out of order, others that the mud was so hard that the dredger could not work it, and others that the boatmen had gone on strike. I have ascertained, however, that the real cause is that the people of Sami do not wish to receive from the hands of our Government the benefit of having the area of its land increased and that they have refused to allow the mud to be deposited in the place appointed. Upon finding this difficulty in his way the contractor deposited the mud in the river. If that were allowed to go on, the mud being thrown where it would be washed back again by the current, the dredging might go on for ever. I have already suggested that the mud should be used for reclamation purposes in the colony itself. I would recommend the members of the dredging committee to take a stroll some evening from the steamer wharves along the inner harbour up to Porta de Cerco, or even only to the road that joins Green Island to Macao, and see if they cannot find places where the mud could be advantageously used for filling in purposes. It may be said that these places belong to private people and that the committee has no control over them, but the owners would be very glad to give their consent to the mud being deposited on their land, as it would increase the value of their property. Thus both the owners and the public would benefit.

I hear there is a movement on foot for an excursion to Sanchoan Island, for which the *Heungshan* is to be chartered. The excursion will probably be made some time next month and if all goes well no doubt it will be largely attended, as the pilgrimage has not taken place for some years now.

I need not here refer to the great disadvantage to the development of Macao's trade resulting from the fact of the Lappa Customs not being authorised to collect the duties payable by steamers proceeding to the West River. The steamers cannot carry either passengers or cargo between Macao and Kongmoon and Komechuk without going first to Samshui, as has been already pointed out in the press. The Chinese are acting without in their rights in this matter, but our authorities should do their utmost to have the disadvantage removed and trade facilitated.

But of what use is it to expect anything for the benefit of trade from a Government like that of this colony. Trade here is tied up with iron rings, namely, the monopolies, and before talking to other people about increased trading facilities outside the colony it would be well if



trade were freed within the colony. Things grow worse and worse day by day, the prices of provisions are steadily increasing, and the cost of living is becoming so great that our industries are threatened. I mentioned in one of my recent letters that the Leal Senado was considering the abolition of the beef monopoly. I also thought of saying that this was perhaps intended as a little dust to be thrown into the eyes of the public, but I abstained and waited for the decision. It appears now that the idea was only entertained for a moment, and the monopoly has been let at an advance of \$500 on the amount paid before. The price of beef in the market was immediately increased. Thus a little here and a little there trade is being hampered and rendered impossible. What reason have we then to cry out against another Government for not facilitating our trade when our own Government is the first to treat us in this way, and even the Leal Senado, a representative body pledged to look after our welfare, treats us in the same way. The sooner the Government does away with all trade monopolies the better. The gambling and opium monopolies I do not object to, because they refer to vices and are not oppressive on the general public, but to make provisions and articles of common and daily use the subject of monopolies is oppressive and prejudicial to the interests of the colony.

As a result of this ill-advised policy we are in danger of losing the fire-cracker industry. The cracker factories afford employment to a large section of the Chinese population, but the proprietors are now saying they will soon have to find other quarters, because the duties they have to pay to the monopolist of gunpowder, sulphur, and saltpetre are so high that they cannot conduct the business at a profit. It would indeed be a misfortune if these factories were compelled to leave the colony, as large numbers of people would be thrown out of work and great distress would follow, and other branches of trade would suffer in sympathy. This is a very serious matter.

### HONGKONG.

A deep sensation was caused this week by the discovery that gambling house keepers have been in the habit of paying hush money to the police. A private inquiry is now being conducted by the Captain Superintendent of Police, who has already suspended four of the best known officers in the Police Force. The result of the inquiry is eagerly awaited. The Jubilee Gymkhana was held on Saturday under fairly favourable weather conditions, and the pony races were productive of some interesting finishes. The sad death of Mr. D. K. Sliman, one of Hongkong's most promising young men and a fine tenor singer, created a profound feeling of regret amongst his large circle of friends. His funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Happy Valley, his body having been conveyed from Swatow. Some interesting cases have occupied the attention of the Law Courts during the week.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Messrs. Hughes and Hough have been appointed Government Auctioneers, with effect from the 8th inst.

Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, of the Consular Service, who accompanied the Blackburn Commission on its recent tour through China, goes home on leave by this mail.

The stamp revenue for the half-year ended 30th June last was \$126,885, being an increase of \$347 on the amount collected in the corresponding half of last year.

The roof of a verandah of a house at 40, Praya East collapsed on Sunday afternoon and crashed the verandah of the two floors beneath. Fortunately no one was injured.

At 10.30 on Sunday night a godown coolie fell from the second floor verandah of a house at 8, Elgin Road, Kowloon, to the pavement below, a distance of 40 feet, and was instantly killed.

The Harbour Master, Hon. Commander R. Murray Rumsey, appeared as a prosecutor at the Police Court on 6th inst. On Saturday last he gave his coolies their wages and three of them bolted, while another decided on Monday not to do any more work for his master. He was arrested and Mr. Wodehouse fined him \$5 or fourteen days' imprisonment.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that loose letter boxes will in future be placed on board the Canton steamers. Correspondence posted in these boxes, fully prepaid in Hongkong stamps, will be treated as paid at Canton.

The Government Analyst's return of samples examined under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance for the quarter ended 30th June is published in the *Gazette*. Three samples of whisky were examined, one of which was found genuine and the other two adulterated.

The Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, was registered on the 5th July, with a capital of \$350,000 divided into 70,000 shares of \$5 each. The object of the Company is to take over and work the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mines at Mount MacDonald, New South Wales, which are on the same line of reef as Oliver's Mines. The vendors take the purchase price in shares and the remainder of the shares have all been subscribed privately.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the Mines giving the result of the June clean-up:—"The mill ran 30 days crushing 421 tons yielding 147 ozs. of smelted gold; 2,050 tons of headings crushed yielding 155 ozs. of gold. Pockets found yielding 25 ozs. Twenty-five tons concentrates calcined for a yield of 37 ozs. of gold. The cyanide plant ran 38 days, treating 940 tons of tailings, yielding 267 ozs. of bullion of an assay value of £1 6s. 6d. per ounce."

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers of Oliver's Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received the following telegram:—"A crushing of 150 tons of quartz from Eureka has yielded half-an-ounce to the ton." The General Managers further inform us that the Mine is now steadily paying its way, no funds having been remitted from Hongkong since the first crushing in March last. The additions to the milling machinery are now being made and as it is expected the output will shortly be greatly increased there is every reason to believe that much larger results may be expected in the near future.

On the 7th inst. the Chartered Bank received a letter from the Singapore Manager, dated 29th ult., in which he writes:—"On the evening of the 22nd instant Mr. C. E. Hume arrived here, but so seriously ill that he had at once to be removed to the General Hospital. He is suffering from a severe attack of typhoid fever, and, we understand, was ill when he left Hongkong. On the journey to Singapore Mr. Hume's temperature ran above 103 deg., causing anxiety, and it still continues high, while his strength is greatly reduced by the prolonged illness." As already announced, a telegram was received on the 2nd July conveying the sad intelligence of Mr. Hume's death.

From information to hand by last English mail it appears the *Aden* left Colombo on 1st June and would be expected to reach Suez about 17th idem, but considering the time of year her non-arrival on that date would not occasion alarm. On the 21st June it was decided to send the *Mayo* out in search of her, and she left Aden the following day. The steamer *Logician* passed Socotra on 13th June and reported on arrival at Suaz on 22nd that there was a wreck on the East side of Socotra, and as nothing had been heard of the *Aden* in the meantime the *Rohilla* was sent out from Bombay on the following day. Arrivals at Bombay reported a severe cyclone in the locality of Socotra on 8th and 9th June.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 30th June, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.....	\$2,338,427	\$1,200,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	5,214,437	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited...	327,096	205,000
Total	\$7,879,960	\$3,905,000

### COMMERCIAL.

#### TEA

CANTON, 13th July.—Congou Settlements during the past two weeks amount to about 3,700 boxes at Tls. 10 to 28, prices having in some instances been easier. Several small lots of so-called "hand made" teas have been offered, but only a few of these have been withered and fermented in a proper manner and most of the improvement displayed has been effected by sifting the chops into grades and labelling them after the Ceylon style. Hoyunes continue in demand at Canton at about Tls. 16 to 20 per picul. Scented Capers.—Settlements amount to 21,600 boxes at Tls. 10 to 30 per picul, prices showing little or no change. The second crop leaf does not show the marked superiority over other seasons that was apparent in the first crop produce, in fact it is only of average quality, and as soon as this became known, some eagerness was displayed in securing any parcels showing good quality, and at the moment Natives are asking higher prices for first crop leaf. Total settlements to date are 93,100 boxes against 86,600 boxes last season, but many of the recent purchases cannot be delivered for some time owing to the scarcity of scenting flower. Stocks in native hands are computed at only 30,000 boxes and there is little doubt now that the first crop is at least 15 per cent short of last year's. There has been no further business in Longleaf Scented Orange Pekoes.

SHANGHAI, 9th July:—From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were dated 24th ultimo. Our latest news from Hankow is to the effect that there was rather more business passing and prices show an advance of Taels 1 to 2 a picul. The first crop of Black Tea this season amounts to 670,000 half-chests, against 830,000 half-chests last season. The second crop promises to be the smallest on record, and will probably not be much more than half the size of last year's yield. The quality is reported on unfavorably generally. One or two Keemuns we have seen are much superior to any second crop Tea from the same district last season; they are reported as settled at Tls. 17 short a picul. Black Tea.—There is a small business passing at what appears to us to be very full prices, chiefly for shipment to the United States. The lowest quotation for whole-leaf Tea is Taels 13½ a picul, against Taels 11½ at the same time last year. As usual most of the chops on offer are only represented by chest muster, the bulk being kept up river until telegraphed for. The Export figures to Great Britain look most favorable, if one had any confidence in there being any demand for China Congou in London, but they appear to be able to do without it. Macao Congous have had a shocking reception.

Settlements reported are:—  
Ningchow... 470 ½-chests, at Tls. 13½ to 23 a picul  
Hohow ..... 196 " " 16 to 16½ " "  
Kutoan..... 166 " " 17 to — " "  
Wenchow... 222 " " 15 to 17½ " "  
Oonam ..... 600 " " 13½ to 14 " "

Stock, 6,378 half-chests, against 20,193 half-chests at same date last year.

Green Teas.—Pingsneys.—The fear of the U. S. Customs Inspector is continually before the eyes of buyers with the result that makers of really pure Teas are reaping an unexpected harvest. Our market opened on 26th ultimo at about five taels a picul higher prices than were paid for similar quality last season, and since the opening prices have hardened. At the close the best chops are in demand at an advance of Tls. 1 to 2 a picul. In our opinion the whole of the Pingsneys now offering are merchantable Teas, and should not be "shut out" from any market where Green Tea is sold. The style and colour of the crop is fully average. Local Packs and Wenchows.—There are the same washy rapid Teas as usual, sadly underfired, but being pure, they have been taken at full rates. The settlements to date are nearly equal to last season's total, and the supply promises to show an increase of five to six thousand half-chests. Fychows if any thing are more smoky and more undesirable than they were last year, but business has been done in them at three to four Taels a picul higher than the same chops were settled at last year, the results of which are still remembered by those who shipped them. Tienkais.—The first chop arrived yesterday and if succeeding chops are like it, we shall have some Teas worth attention from this district. It lacks strength, but in aroma, style and freedom from dust or blemishes it is superior to last year's chop. This chop last year was settled at Tls. 25½ and lost money in London; Tls. 32 a picul has, we hear, been refused for it. Moyunes have not yet arrived, but the quality is well spoken of by



native Teamen. Late telegrams from America say "Duty agitation revived, situation is doubtful." While this lasts shipping Tea to the United States becomes more speculative than ever. Whichever way the question is settled any Teas arriving after its settlement must suffer. London promises to be a small factor in the Green Tea business this year, and it looks as though a much larger proportion of the crop than usual will be available for shipment to the United States and Canada. Hysons.—There is more discrimination than is usual in selections so far, and "smoky" Fychows are quite neglected. A few Soeyoans have been taken at extravagant prices, say Tls. 32 a picul, but no buyer will follow the lead as it is much too high.

Settlements reported are:—

	Settlements.	Stock.
	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey .....	6,848 at Tls. 23½ to 33½ a picul.	
Fychows .....	1,224 " 17½ to 20 "	
	[Lines Tls. 62½ to 80]	
Local packed and Wen-chow .....	5,721 " 17 to 30½ a picul.	

13,793

Total settlements since opening of the market to date:—

	Settlements.	Stock.
	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey .....	6,818	12,547
Moyune .....	—	—
Tienkai .....	—	839
Fychow .....	1,224	—
Local packed .....	5,992	209
Total .....	14,061	13,595

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao .....	1,827,448	1,778,140
Shanghai and Hankow ...	7,559,606	11,198,431
Foochow .....	4,849,926	5,976,756
Total .....	14,236,980	18,953,327

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai .....	2,489,194	1,721,012
Amoy .....	2,952,751	1,638,547
Foochow .....	674,032	1,131,222
Total .....	6,115,977	4,490,781

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	14,229,694	16,584,567

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama .....	11,716,105	8,571,491
Kobe .....	5,758,740	3,180,870
Total .....	17,474,845	11,752,364

#### SILK.

SHANGHAI, 9th July.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London messages to 6th current quote a quiet market. Blue Elephants 9/6 in London, and Gold Kilins fcs. 24.50 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—A small business only has to be recorded this week, demand has fallen away, but there is no weakness in price here, the market closing quite firm. Tsuties.—Settlements 100 bales only, prices fully maintained. Taysaams.—About 400 bales have changed hands, one half of which are Skeins; quotations for Kahings and 9/12 Moss show a further advance, whilst all grades of Skeins have commanded very full prices. Yellow Silks.—Fully 150 bales have been settled at a considerable advance on last mail's prices. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 1st to 7th July: 2,353 bales White, 126 piculs Yellow, and 69 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels And Filatures.—Two or three small lots of Hand Filatures have been bought at quotations, but we do not hear of any transactions of note in Steam Filatures. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to Continent 370 bales, to America 577 bales. Waste Silk.—The market for new Wastes has not been opened here.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/8½. Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stkg.
	per	per
	pol.	lb.
Tsutes.—Silver Double Elephant .....	407½	9/6½
Yaconlay Kinfoong .....	387½	9/1
Taysaam.—9 by 12 Moss Green Horse 2 .....	400	9/4½
" " Double Butterfly 1 .....	380	8/11½
" " White Kahing Gold Lily Flower 4 .....	280	8/11½
" " Gr. Kahing Gr. Almond Flower 2 .....	380	8/11½
Skeins.—Double Man 3 .....	375	8/10
" " Lucky Twins 8 .....	375	8/10
" " Blue Monster 1 .....	352½	8/4
" " Green Monster 1 .....	352½	8/4
" " Old Man Chop 1 .....	370	8/8½
" " Blue Bat Chop 1 .....	347½	8/2½
" " White Stork Chop 1 .....	330	7/10
" " Lie Skeins Blue Phoenix Chop .....	300	8/8
" " Gold Double Crane .....	307½	7/8½
Yellow Silk.—Mienchew .....	325 a 332½ 7/8 a	7/10½ 21.50
" " Moeyang Market 1 .....	330	7/10
" " Szechong .....	230	5/7
Hand " Filature.—Double Mountain Haining .....	510	11/10½
" " 1, 2 & 3, average price @ .....	510	11/10½
" " Hongkong Hang Haining .....	510	11/10½
" " 1, & 2, (old cargo) average price @ .....	492½	11/5½
Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature Three Joas .....	315	7/5½
" " Chop 8 Coccons .....	315	7/5½

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	5,138	2,660
Canton .....	1,200	2,000
Total .....	6,338	4,660

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	878	194
Canton .....	600	100
Total .....	1,478	294

#### CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 14th July.—No change to report in the position of this market. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$45.50 to \$46.00. Sales, 200 piculs.

#### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—The decline has continued and the market is weak. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.18 to 7.20 per c. l. do. " 2, White... 6.65 to 6.68 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.98 to 4.40 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.26 to 4.28 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 6.98 to 7.10 " do. " 2, White... 6.46 to 6.50 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.29 to 4.30 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.17 to 4.20 " Soochow Sugar Candy .....

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Pyrrhus*, sailed on the 1st July. For London:—8,384 boxes tea (174,287 lbs), 4 cases blackwoodware, 42 cases cigars, 150 casks soy, 235 rolls matting, 305 bales canes, 3 bales leaf tobacco, and 1 package sundries. For London for Manchester:—25 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—1 case lacquer ware, and 200 bales waste silk. For London for Hamburg:—70 bales canes, and 1 roll matting. For Liverpool:—1 case preserves 3 cases cigars, and 4 packages effects. For Rotterdam:—21 cases preserves. For Buenos Ayres:—200 packages tea. From Amoy to London:—1,069 boxes tea, and 378½ chests tea. For Glasgow:—1 package sundries.

Per German steamer *Thekla*, sailed on the 3rd July.—From Hongkong for Odessa:—1 bale canes. For Smyrna:—10 boxes essential oil. For Genoa:—24 casks tamin and 1 cask soda. For Havre:—27 cases feathers, 36 cases lith paper, 300 cases cassia lignea, 125 bales canes 30 cases bristles, 595 rolls matting, 50 boxes staraniseed, 10 boxes essential oil and 3 cases camphor. For Havre option Hamburg:—73 bales rattan, and 1 case feathers. For Havre option Hamburg option London:—600 cases cassia, 1,750 cases cassia lignea, 628 cases camphor, 25 cases aniseed oil and 20 boxes bristles. For Haver and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antwerp:—200 cases cassia buds. For Hamburg 22 bags galangal, 8 cases palmleaffans, 91 rolls mats, and 2 cases chinaware. 293 bales canes, 926 bales feathers, 85 cases bristles, 50 cases staraniseed, 203 cases camphor, 700 cases cassia, 497 cases cassia lignea, 10

boxes essential oil, 10 cases camphor oil, 20 cases wood oil, 8 packages sundries. For Bremen:—172 rolls matting, 3 bales rattancore. For Antwerp:—25 cases bristles. For Bilbao:—200 boxes tea. For Lisbon:—11 packages China and Japanware.

The steamer *Marquis Bacquehem*, sailed on the 6th July. For Trieste:—1,750 cases cassia, 56 bundles bamboo canes, 2 cases silk goods, 185 bales rattan, 50 boxes staraniseed, and 40 boxes tea. For Fiume:—46 boxes tea and 2 packages rattan furniture. For Venice:—125 cases cassia and 5 packages rattan furniture. For Galatz:—500 boxes tea. For Taffa:—1 box private effects. For Alexandria:—50 cases cassia.

The steamer *Caledonien* sailed on the 7th July. For France:—480 bales raw silk, 16 cases silk piece goods, 7 packages hair, 1 case grass cloth, 1 case woodware and 1,782 packages tea. For Milan:—45 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk.

The steamer *Hector*, sailed on the 7th July. For London:—25 cases aniseed oil, 8 cases personal effects, 7 cases cigars, 20 cases blackwoodware, 77 bales canes and 5 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For London and/or Hamburg:—7 cases bristles. For Glasgow:—40 bales strawbaskets and 2 cases camphorwood chests. For Hamburg:—33 bales feathers.

The German steamer *Bellona*, sailed on the 7th July. From Hongkong for Odessa:—51 bales canes. For Havre:—20 bales canes and 1 case camphor. For Havre option Hamburg:—25 boxes staraniseed and 7 cases bristles. For Havre option Hamburg option London:—250 cases cassia and 375 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—3 cases bambooware, 30 bales rattan shavings, 101 bales feathers, 234 galangal, 5 boxes essential oil, 150 cases cassia, 71 bales canes, 22 cases bristles, 2 cases camphor, 5 packages tea, 4 rolls mats and 5 packages sundries. For Hamburg option London:—3 casks wood oil, 802 packages crackers and 102 packages canes. For New York:—10 cases essential oil.

The P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, sailed on the 8th July. For Buenos Ayres:—1,295 packages tea. For Manchester:—350 bales waste silk. For London:—7 cases cigars from Manila, 50 cases bristles, 26 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases feathers, 55 bales feathers, 50 bales waste silk, 1,016 rolls mats, 1 case curios, 31 packages rattanware, 100 packages tea in Transit, and 236,725 boxes tea (12,155 lbs.).

#### OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—Bengal.—The market has continued steady with a slight advance in prices, which close at \$717½ for New Patna, \$775 for Old Patna, and \$720 for New Benares.

Malwa.—This year's New continues neglected; other descriptions have been dealt in to a fair extent, and have undergone some improvement in value. Latest figures are as under:—

New (this yr's) \$760 with allowance of 5½ cattie. " (last yr's) \$780 " up to 1 " Old (2/5 " ) \$800 " to 1½ " Older (6/10 " ) \$810 " to 2½ "

Persian.—Prices have ruled steady during the past week, closing at \$500 to \$510 for Oily and at \$550 to \$615 for Paper-wrapped according to quality. Some extra inferior parcels are obtainable at much cheaper rates.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna .....	1,260 chests.
Old Patna .....	87 " "
New Benares .....	200 " "
Malwa .....	360 " "
Persian .....	900 " "

#### COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
July 7.	715	775	720	—	760	820
July 8.	712½	770	715	—	760	820
July 9.	710	770	712½	—	760	820
July 10.	712½	775	715	—	760	820
July 11.	712½	775	715	—	760	820
July 12.	712½	775	715	—	760	820
July 13.	715	775	717½	—	760	820
July 14.	717½	775	720	—	760	820



## COTTON.

COTTON, 14th July.—The Cotton market has ruled firm and rates further enhanced. Stock about 2,000 bales.

Bombay .....	\$16.50 to 17.50 p. pl.
Kurrachee .....	15.75 to 18.75 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca .....	18.00 to 20.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese ..	21.00 to 22.75 "
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	22.00 to 22.75 "
Madras (Best) .....	17.50 to 18.00 "
Sales: 1,630 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.	

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—Supplies have come forward rather more freely and the market is easier. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary .....	\$2.47 to 2.50
" Round, good quality .....	2.26 to 2.65
" Long .....	2.70 to 2.73
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.52 to 2.55
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	2.75 to 2.78
" White .....	3.60 to 3.63
" Fine Cargo .....	3.82 to 3.85

## COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—Market firm and good business done. Quotations are:—

Cardiff .....	\$16.50 to 18.00 ex ship.
Australian ..	7.75 to 9.00 ex ship, steady
Milke Lump ..	— to 8.00 ex ship, nominal
Milke Small ..	— to — none offering
Milke Lump ..	7.75 to 8.50 ex ship, sales

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

**YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.**—25 bales No. 8 at \$83.50, 1,045 bales No. 10 at \$87 to \$92.50, 670 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$94, 250 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$105.50, 740 bales No. 20 at \$100 to \$105. **Japanese Yarn.**—30 bales No. 16 at \$105.50, 30 bales No. 20 at \$100.50. **Grey Shirtings.**—500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.40, 8,300 lbs. 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B at \$3, 2,400 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Peach at \$2.62½, 3,000 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.95, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B. No. 2 at \$2.95, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.35, 1,900 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.05, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.60, 350 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.96, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Moon and Lock at \$3.42½, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Joss at \$2.87½, 1,750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.87½. **White Shirtings.**—4,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.57½, 2,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.65, 508 pieces Green Stag at \$3.50, 1,500 S.Q. at \$4.15, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.27½, 600 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.07½, 500 pieces No. 66,000 at \$5.75, 500 pieces Woman at \$5.80, 500 pieces Soldier at \$2.75, 500 pieces Flower at \$4.85, 600 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.85, 2,500 pieces P.P. at \$5.10, 250 pieces No. 400 at \$3, 500 pieces X. 8, at \$4.30, 500 pieces S.O. at \$4.15, 500 pieces 2 Fish No. 4,000 at \$3.47½. **T. Cloths.**—1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican X.M. at \$2.40, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.71, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Feather Brush at \$1.97½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.40, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at \$2.96, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Red Dragon at \$2.30, 1,125 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican B. Dragon B. at \$2.13. **Drills.**—225 pieces 14 lbs. Dragon at \$4.05, 150 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock at \$3.90, 150 pieces 14 lbs. No. 260 at \$3.70, 300 pieces 15 lbs. American at \$4.35. **Long Ells.**—150 pieces 7 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.35, 1,150 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.80, 125 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.30, 425 pieces 10 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.80.

## COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 .....	per bale	\$82.00 to 104.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 .....		100.00 to 117.00
" 22 to 24 .....		115.00 to 120.00
" 28 to 32 .....		120.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42 .....		133.00 to 140.00

## COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. ....	per piece	1.60 to 1.70
" 7lbs. ....		1.95 to 2.12½
" 8½ lbs. ....		2.30 to 3.10
" 9 to 10 lbs. ....		3.25 to 4.10
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. ....		2.25 to 2.45
" 58 to 60 " ..		2.60 to 3.20
" 64 to 66 " ..		3.20 to 3.75
" Fine .....		4.00 to 7.00
" Book-folds. ....		3.50 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..		0.65 to 1.30
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. ....		1.45 to 1.60
" 7lbs. (32 " ) ..		1.85 to 2.10
" 6lbs. (32 " ), Mexs. ....		1.65 to 1.80
" 7lbs. (32 " ) ..		2.10 to 2.85
" 8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) ..		2.35 to 3.15
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs. ....		3.70 to 5.00

## FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs. ....	1.40 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed .....	3.75 to 4.50
" per yard .....	
Damasks .....	0.11 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted .....	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in. ....	0.12 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in. ....	0.17 to 0.20
" per dozen .....	

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 0.80

## WOOLLENS.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. ....	0.60 to 1.20
" German .....	1.03 to 1.35
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. ....	1.32 to 4.70
" per piece .....	
Long Ells—Scarlet .....	6.80 to 8.70
" Assorted .....	6.90 to 8.80
Camlets—Assorted .....	13.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, } ....	11.00 to 20.00
" Assorted } .....	
Orleans—Plain .....	3.40 to 4.20
" per pair .....	
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. ....	5.00 to 10.00

## METALS

Iron—Nail Rod (Sohier) ....	per picul	3.95 to —
" Square, Flat Round Bar ...		3.85 to —
" Swedish Bar .....		5.50 to —
" Small Round Rod .....		4.10 to —
" Hoop .....		4.55 to —
" Old Wire Rope .....		— to —
" Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...		— to —
" Australian .....		7.55 to 7.60
" Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. ....		— to —
" Vivian's, 14/20 oz. ....		29.25 to —
" Elliot's, 14/20 oz. ....		29.25 to —
Composition Nails .....		45.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs .....		— to —
" Tiles .....		— to —
Tin .....		— to —
" per box. ....		
Tin-Plates .....		5.85 to —
" per cwt. case .....		
Steel .....		4.50 to 1—
SUNDRIES .....		
Quicksilver .....	per pie	125.00 to —
" per box .....		
Window Glass .....		3.90 to —
" per 10-gal. case .....		
Kerosene Oil .....		1.95 to —

SHANGHAI, 8th July.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—The revival in the demand has already set in, or at least its precursor, for so far the buying appears to be confined to the local dealers in anticipation of orders from Tientsin, which have not actually arrived yet. Most attention is being paid to 8 1/2 lbs. shirtings at present, and all the suitable cloths are being bought up both from stock and to arrive. Meanwhile prices have advanced here sufficiently to enable operators to cover their sales in most cases, but the long interruption to the telegraph cables, and the consequent irregularity with which telegrams have been coming through, has made it difficult to do so in some instances. Of other goods there has not been so much doing from first hands, but a large quantity has changed ownership amongst the natives themselves during the interval, which will help to clear the way for future operations. These consist chiefly of the heavier makes of Shirtings, which are getting scarce in Importers' books, and also American goods. Of the latter a fair quantity is being shipped to-morrow for Newchwang and further supplies have been bought to arrive. For Hankow there is a better enquiry for both Grey and White Shirtings and deliveries are improving. The want of rain is causing considerable anxiety in most parts of the country, and especially on account of the growing Cotton crop in this neighbourhood, and consequently a further rise has taken place in the price of this staple. The Auctions have gone well this week, both Cottons and Woollens showing advancing prices. Yarns are strong, both the local and imported Spinnings realising higher values.

METALS.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co's Report), 9th July.—There has been a little business done during the week under review, as noted below, and it is further learned from native sources that the total business done in these lines during the month of May and June, including that given by us, has amounted to over 5,000 tons, which is not so very bad under the present conditions. The following are the contracts made during the week:—

250 tons London horse-shoes .....	\$3/6 c.i.f.
300 " Glasgow and L'pool Horse-shoes ..	85/6 "
250 " Boiler Plate .....	82/- to 83/- "

100 picule German Silver .....	Tls. 41.00
50 cases Copper Sheathing .....	Tls. 28.50
100 tons Sohiers Exp. ....	128/- c.i.f.
35 " Old Cable Wire .....	123/- "
20 " Old Round Iron .....	98/- "
20 " Old Enamelled Plates .....	32/6 "
100 " Australian Lead .....	at Tls. 6.35
500 boxes Tin Plates, 14 by 20, 100 lbs. at	Tls. 4.60

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 14th July.—The business of the week has been somewhat restricted and chiefly confined to Mining and the smaller stocks. Rates, however, continue steady and in some cases show an improvement.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 188 per cent. prem. and more shares are obtainable at the rate. A few unimportant transactions forward at equivalent rates have been reported. Nationals are still enquired for at \$23 without bringing out sellers and at time of writing sales are reported at \$24. Bank of China neglected with sellers.

MARINE INSURANCE.—China Traders are enquired for at \$77 and sales are reported. Unions are wanted at \$225, and \$227½ would doubtless be paid were shares forthcoming. Straits have been asked for at \$17½ without inducing holders to part. Cantons continue on offer at \$180 with no sales. Yangtszes and North Chinas have changed hands at quotations in the North.

FIRE INSURANCE.—A sudden demand for Hongkongs quickly sent the rate up to \$360 after small sales at \$354, \$355, and \$357½, market closing steady at \$360. Chinas have also improved considerably, shares having changed hands at \$105, \$106, and \$107, and closing firm at the last rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled very quiet and almost neglected, sellers at \$35½ and \$35 being always willing to meet any small demand. The market closes with sales and buyers at \$34½. Indo-Chinas have ruled firm and in demand; a fair number of shares have been placed at \$50 and \$51 for cash and at equivalent rates on time. Market closes firm at \$51. The report is to hand, but as all the prominent features of it have been previously noted further reference is unnecessary. China Manilas continue firm but without business. Douglasses have found small buyers at \$66 and \$67, closing steady.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continued firm in the early part of the week, but towards the end have shown a slight weakness and shares have changed hands at \$147, \$146½, and \$146, closing at last rate. The temporary decline appears to be due to Shanghai forcing shares on our market. Luzons have found buyers at \$50½ for August and at \$49 and \$47 cash, closing quiet at latter rate.

MINING.—Punjoms.—On the strength of the report of a satisfactory offer having been made for the property by the American Syndicate, shares have ruled very strong and considerable sales have been effected at \$8½, \$8½, and reported ones at \$9. Towards the close, however, a decided set-back occurred and the rate fell quickly to \$8 with but few sales. The negotiations with the Syndicate appear to be going on steadily and to be of a bona fide character. They are, however, kept private until some definite offer is made which the directors consider worthy of placing before the shareholders at an extraordinary meeting which will have to be called for the purpose. The market closes rather firmer at \$8.15 after late sales at that rate. Charbonnages remain at \$95 without business. Balmorals have found buyers in fair lots at \$2.10 and \$2 for ordinaries and \$2.30 and \$2.20 for preferences, market closing weak with sellers at \$1.90 and \$2.10 respectively. Jelebus continue steady with a small demand and sales at \$2.25. Raubs, upon receipt of the result of the two months' clean up, (i.e. 2,150 oz. from 2,400 tons ore) very quickly recovered their position and sales were effected at \$28, \$28½, and \$29. Later, however, with many shares offering by weak holders for the settlement on the 31st, the rate again receded to \$27½ and the market closes quiet at \$27.25. The crushing mentioned above, although not as good as the last exceptional one, is still very good, giving as it does a fraction under 18 dwt. per ton. Olivers A have changed hands



in small lots, at quotation and B's have been negotiated at \$6.10, \$6, and \$6½, closing with buyers at the last rate.

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue very quiet with little or no business. Shares have changed hands in small lots at 245 for delivery 31st inst., but more are obtainable at the rate and at equivalent rates forward. Kowloon Wharves are also neglected with only small sales at quotation. Wanchais have improved to \$44½ ex div., and have changed hands at \$43½, \$44, and \$44½.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with little or no business at quotation. It has been decided to pay the usual \$2.00 half yearly dividend. Hotels have ruled very firm and have changed hands in fair lots at \$48, \$48½, \$49, and \$50 for cash, and at \$49½ for August and \$49½ for September, market closing steady at \$50. West Points have found further buyers at \$22½. Humphreys Estates have improved to \$9.50 after sales at \$9½, and close steady at higher rate. Kowloon Lands quiet and without business.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands have been in some demand at increasing rates, and sales have been effected at \$37, \$37½, \$38, and \$38½, market closing steady at \$38½. Watsons, Electrics, and Fenwicks have changed hands at quotations. Tramways and Ices continue on offer without business and Cotton Mills all rule weaker at quotations with but little business to report.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
<b>Banks—</b>		[\$360, sellers
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	188 9/10 prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5
<b>Natl. Bank of China</b>		
B. Shares .....	£8	\$24, sales
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
Carmichael & Co. ....	\$20	\$8
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$146, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$5	\$6
Ewo Cotton .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 115, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$27½, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$38½, buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7.25, sal. & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$115, sellers
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$50, sales
Hongkong Ice .....	\$25	\$115, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$66½, sales
Hongkong Rope .....	\$50	\$173, sales
H. & W. Dock .....	\$125	242 p. ct. prem.=
<b>Insurances—</b>		[\$427.60, sales
Canton .....	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire .....	\$20	\$107, sales
China Traders' .....	\$25	\$77, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$360, buyers
North-China .....	£25	Tls. 188, sellers
Straits .....	\$20	\$17½, sales & buyers
Union .....	\$25	\$227½, buyers
Yangtze .....	\$60	\$155
<b>Land and Building—</b>		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$77, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$20, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$22½, sales
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$47, sales & buyers
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages .....	Fcs. 500	\$95, sellers
Jelebu .....	\$5	\$2.25, sales
New Balmoral .....	\$1	\$1.90, sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$2.10, sellers
Olive's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$6½, sales & buyers
Punjom .....	\$4	\$8.25, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$2.30, sales & sellers
Rauba .....	13s. 10d.	\$27.10, sales
Great E. & Caledonian	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. Do. ....	\$2½	\$3½, sellers
New Amoy Dock .....	\$10	\$19, sales
<b>Steamship Coys.—</b>		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$76
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s.
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$67, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$34½, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$51, sales & buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$44½, ex div.
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, sales

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

**SHANGHAI, 9th July.**—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Business has been rather brisker this week, and rates have been well maintained, with exception of Tobacco shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business has been done for cash at 192 percent. premium, 19½ and 19¾ for the 31st current, and 200 for October. Marine Insurance.—There is no change reported. North Chinas are obtainable at Tls. 190, and Yangtzes are wanted at \$156. Straits can be placed at \$17½, but are held for \$18. Fire Insurance.—Chinas have been placed at \$104. Shipping.—Business has been confined to Indo-China S. N. shares, which have been placed for July at Tls. 36.50, Tls. 36.75, Tls. 37.50 and Tls. 37, and for December at Tls. 39. Sugar Companies.—China Sugar Refining shares were placed locally at \$146 and \$147, and to Hongkong at \$147. Luzons are worth \$49. Mining.—A number of Sheridan Mining shares have been placed at Tls. 2.50, and more are wanted. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were placed at Tls. 210, in S. C. Farnham & Co. Tls. 185, in the Shanghai Engineering and Dock Co. at Tls. 106/107, and in the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. at Tls. 125. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92½ for old cum the new issue and the dividend, and at Tls. 87½ cum div. but ex the new issue. A dividend of 4½ per cent for the half year to the 30th June has been declared. As the new shares will rank equally with the old for dividend from the 1st instant, the value of the new shares is Tls. 85.25. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 230. In Cotton Mill shares, Ewos were sold at Tls. 115/116 cash, Internationals at Tls. 117½ to Tls. 121 cash, Tls. 121/122 for July, Tls. 122½ for August, and Tls. 127 for November, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 117½ to Tls. 120 for cash, Tls. 121 for 31st current, and Tls. 127 for the October. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 130, China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 50, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 80. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug and Lighter shares were sold at T. Tls. 121. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares are wanted. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at declining rates, Tls. 108/109 cash, Tls. 109 for July, and Tls. 107 for August. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co.—The market opened at Tls. 560 cash and Tls. 640 for December but eager sellers came into the market and rates declined rapidly on the 5th and 6th to Tls. 450 cash, Tls. 510/500 for July and Tls. 510 for October. On the 6th shares were forced down to Tls. 400, but rapidly recovered to Tls. 425 cash and Tls. 450 for December. Shares were placed yesterday at Tls. 450 cash and the same price for the end of the month. Loans.—Municipal Debentures of 1893 were sold at Tls. 101, Land Investment Company's 6 per cent Debentures at Tls. 100, 5½ per cent Debentures at Tls. 101 and 5 per cent Debentures at Tls. 100. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Company's 10 per cent Debentures changed hands at Tls. 100. Quotations are:—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$365.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£5.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$23.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$20.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$227½.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$77.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.00.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$158.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$182½.

Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$18.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$352½.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$104.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$35½.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 36.50.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$66.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—Tls. 50.00.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 22.00.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 38.00.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$147.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$52½.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2.50.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6½.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.85.

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$2.25.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$30.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 210.00.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 135.00.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$128½.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 125.00.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$67½.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid) —Tls. 87.50.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$77½.

Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$17.

Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$8½.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 230.00.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 42.50.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 116.00.

International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 121.00.

Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 120.00.

Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 600.00.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 130.00.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 215.00.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 115.00.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 190.00.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 175.00.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 310.00.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 106.00.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 450.00.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 76.00.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$75.00.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$40.00.

A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12.25.

Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.00.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$8.00.

## CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 14th July.

## EXCHANGE.

### ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand .....	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .....	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0	

### ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand .....	2.47
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.51

### ON GERMANY.—

On demand .....	2.00
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### ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand .....	48
Credits, 60 days' sight .....	49

### ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	155½
Bank, on demand .....	156

### ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	155½
Bank, on demand .....	156

### ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight .....	73½
Private, 30 days' sight .....	74½

### ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand .....	½ % pm.
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### ON MANILA.—

On demand .....	1 % pm.
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### ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand .....	½ % pm.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate .....

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....

## TONNAGE.

**HONGKONG, 14th July.**—Since last report freights generally remain dull at about previous rates.

From Saigon to Hongkong there are no offers to charter, the crop of rice being about exhausted; further chartering is not expected before next season.

From Saigon to Sourabaya small steamers can be placed at 24 cents and to Singapore 13 cents per picul.

From Java to Hongkong a medium-sized steamer has been placed at 17 cents, but 15 cents to all that is being offered now.

A slight demand from Newchwang to Canton has been fully met at 20 cents per picul.

Coal freights have weakened. From Moji to this \$1.15, to Singapore \$2.25, from Northern coal ports, Mororan or Otaru to Hongkong, \$1.80, to Singapore \$3.50.

A siller has been placed hence to New York at about 11s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet, but further tonnage for prompt loading is not wanted. There seems to be scarcely any chance of an improvement in the rate.

The British ships *Torresdale*, 2,184 tons, and the *Queen Elizabeth*, 1,780 tons, proceed in ballast to San Francisco and Tacoma both under orders from owners.

There are three vessels disengaged in port, registering 3,620 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

*Landbeer*—American ship, 1,348 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

*Benkewer*—British steamer, 1,484 tons, Otaru or Mororan to Singapore, \$3.50 per ton.

*Taigick*—German steamer, 1,063 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.



*Hermes*—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$3 per ton.

*Tailee*—German steamer, 939 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$3 per ton; thence Iloilo to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

*Else*—German steamer, 747 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.15 per ton.

*Marie Jensen*—German steamer, 1,850 tons, Iloilo for Manila to Yokohama for Kobe, 30 cents per picul.

*Oscarshol*—Norwegian steamer, 764 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, \$6,000 in full.

*Chusan*—German steamer, 719 tons, Cebu to Yokohama, 35 cents, option Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

*Hansa*—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

*Oscarshol*—Norwegian steamer, 764 tons, Hongkong to Amoy, \$1.50 per ton.

*Chittagong*—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$4,600 in full.

*Chunshan*—British steamer, 1,282 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 14 cents per picul.

*Jacob Christensen*—Norwegian steamer, 1,088 tons, Java to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

*Kweiyang*—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

*Nanchang*—British steamer, 1,063 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

*Oslo*—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

*Trym*—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$4,000 per month.

*Cosmopolit*—German steamer, 671 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$2,700 per month.

#### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Manila* (str.), *Kaisow* (str.), *Canton* (str.), *Orestes* (str.), *Benvenue* (str.), *Trocas* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.), *Deike Rickmers* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Heathbank*, *Coptic* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Argyll* (str.), *Fortuna* (str.), *Landseer*.

For MARSEILLES.—*Hakata Maru* (str.), *Oceanien* (str.).

For SOUTH AFRICA.—*Pongola* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Afridi* (str.), *Changsha* (str.), *Yamashiro Maru* (str.).

For TACOMA.—*Columbia* (str.).

#### SHIPPING.

##### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

##### HONGKONG.

##### ARRIVALS.

July—

- 6, Frejr, French str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Elax, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Queen Elizabeth, British str., from Cardiff.
- 7, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Guthrie, British str., from Foochow.
- 7, Java, British str., from London.
- 8, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Benlarig, British str., from Hongay.
- 8, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Albingia, German str., from Saigon.
- 8, Diomed, British str., from Liverpool.
- 9, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 9, Pique, British cruiser, from Singapore.
- 9, Thames, British str., from Bombay.
- 9, Tsinan, British str., from Kobe.
- 9, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 9, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 9, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.
- 9, Shantung, British str., from Swatow.
- 9, Priam, British str., from London.
- 9, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 10, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
- 10, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
- 10, Niobe, German str., from Hamburg.
- 10, Serrano, Amr. bark, from Gorontalo.
- 10, Krim, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 11, Mazagon, British str., from London.
- 11, Radnorshire, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Chusan, German str., from Moji.
- 11, Asloun, British str., from Moji.
- 12, Morven, British str., from New York.
- 12, Nanchang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 12, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 12, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 12, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 12, Activ, Danish str., from Hongay.
- 12, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.

13, Sishan, German str., from Saigon.

13, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.

13, Pakling, British str., from Foochow.

13, Ravenna, British str., from Shanghai.

13, Pronto, German str., from Canton.

13, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.

13, Myrmidon, British str., from Shanghai.

13, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.

14, Cosmopolit, German str., from N'chwang.

14, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.

14, Carmarthenshire, Brit. str., from Y'hama.

14, Martha, German str., from Swatow.

14, Loyal, German str., from Chefoo.

14, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from V'couver.

14, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.

14, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.

##### DEPARTURES.

July—

- 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 7, Hong Leong, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Dante, German str., for Honcoe Bay.
- 7, Caledonien, French str., for Europe.
- 7, Krim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Cwnshan, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Kriemhild, German str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Hector, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Skuld, Norw. str., for Canton.
- 8, Deucalion, British str., for Kudat.
- 8, Formosa, British str., for London.
- 8, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
- 8, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 9, Elax, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
- 9, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Rattler, British g-bt., for Yokohama.
- 10, Diomed, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
- 10, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
- 10, San Joaquin, Span. str., for Manila.
- 10, Thames, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 10, Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tritos, German str., for Houchoe Bay.
- 11, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Matilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
- 11, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
- 11, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 12, Krim, Norw. str., for Hongay.
- 12, Radnorshire, British str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Skuld, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
- 13, Brunel, British bark, for Callao.
- 13, Niobe, German str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 13, Morven, British str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 13, P. C. Klao, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Taiwan, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 14, Activ, Danish str., for Amoy.
- 14, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Myrmidon, British str., for London.
- 14, Pakling, British str., for London.
- 14, Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
- 14, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

#### PASSENGER LIST.

##### ARRIVED.

Per *Formosa*, str., from Yokohama—Messrs. Perry and Black, Mrs. Walkinshaw, and Miss Walkinshaw.

Per *Kriemhild*, str., from Hamburg, &c.—Messrs. Schnepel, Christiani, Grant and Lange.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports—Capt. Dulsone, Messrs. Cutmear and Pender.

Per *Haimun*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Holliday.

Per *Kutsang*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. David.

Per *Wingsang*, str., from Swatow—Mr. E. C. Wilton.

Per *Tsinan*, steamer, from Moji, &c.—Miss Hozier, Mrs. Seelen Meyer and Mr. Holt.

Per *Java*, str., from London for Yokohama—Mr. W. G. Feast, For Hongkong—Midshipmen N. Wheelwright, G. N. Freyburg, W. A. Thompson, and T. L. Carroll, Naval Cadets C. R. B. Drummond, C. B. Lloyd-Owen, E. C. Stubbs, and R. A. Willes. From Penang for Hongkong—Messrs. Oie Chin Choon and Chu Guey Gong.

Per *Peru*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Surgeon Lieut. Col. P. H. Johnston, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Johnston and C. J. Daily.

Per *Thames*, str., for Hongkong from London—Messrs. Prince and Allen. From Malta—Mr. and Mrs. Berry. From Aden—Mr. and Mrs. Lee and infant. From Bombay—Messrs. J. Mahomed, Jehanger, A. Jafferbhoy, Mr. and Mrs. Hay and 5 children. From Colombo—Mr. Ellis, Capt. B. Little, Major Lindley. From Penang—Mr. Sanders. From Singapore—Capt. Langbourne, Mr. E. Leggart, Mr. and Mrs. Seng Kee. For Shanghai from London—Mr. and Mrs. Keith, Mr. E. Sprague. From Singapore—Mr. A. Fame. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. Verity and Plummer, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. From Brindisi—Mr. Southall. From Singapore—Mr. Phillips.

Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Messrs. Hulse, Leitch, and Wong Yuen. For Singapore—Mr. E. Shepherd. For Calcutta—Mdm. Moulard. For London—Miss Lock. From Nagasaki for Hongkong—Mrs. F. Houda, Messrs. R. G. Park and S. Cope.

Per *Coptic*, steamer, from San Francisco—Messrs. A. S. Mihara, H. Mericke, T. G. Ogilvy, and G. Harling, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Barber, and Mrs. A. Clarke.

Per *Ravenna*, str., from Shanghai for London—Mr. D. Smith. For Brindisi—Mr. G. Mudge and Rev. D. A. Stearns. For Bombay—Messrs. Sohn Singh and Mahan Singh. For Penang—Mr. Ma Shu War. For Singapore—Messrs. Chin Fook Chi and Chin Chiu Chi. For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Descours.

##### DEPARTED.

Per *Olympia*, str., from Hongkong for San Francisco—Messrs. L. C. Arlington, P. McCaville, and A. McCaville. For Foochow—Mr. F. E. Richards.

Per *Belgie*, str., for Shanghai—Mrs. Burns. For Nagasaki—Messrs. J. Waters and F. Mag-misson. For Kobe—Mr. Juan Manzano. For Honolulu—Messrs. Wong Chow and Wan Wing Shing. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. M. A. A. Souza and son, Capt. G. J. Anderson, Miss J. J. Anderson, Rev. and Mrs. W. P. MacNey, and Mr. G. S. Northcote. For San Francisco—Messrs. A. T. Voigt and J. Conception. For London—Mr. F. Sykes.

Per *Caledonien*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mrs. W. G. Winterburn and child, Miss Lee, and Mr. Low Cheang Yu. For Port Said—Lieut. A. P. Silvano. For Marseilles—Messrs. O. J. de Oliveira, E. Flamm, S. de Mello, Jose Pires, and Rev. Demarest. From Shanghai for Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. Vierzbonky. Mr. Jaubert, Mrs. Heinam and infant, Mr. Heinam, Mr. and Mrs. Larue, Mr. and Mrs. Cazeau, Messrs. Sert, Chauvet, and Atto. For Singapore—Rev. Laumondais, Mrs. Launay, Messrs. Skado, Chiah Chu Tong, Capt. White, Messrs. J. W. Shelhom and Kowishi. For Marseilles—Mr. J. Fehr, Mrs. Rose Johnston, Messrs. Merch, Tonu, Inogi, Oyata, Teriano, Taylor, J. S. Hamund, Le Petit, Le Jean Gourrier, Rivie, Bertheri, and Bitton.

Per *Thames*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mr. W. Bullard, Miss Travor, Mr. M. Jafferbhoy, Miss M. McMur, Mr. and Mrs. U. B. Allen and 2 children. From London—Mr. and Mrs. Keith and child, and Mr. E. Sprague. From Singapore—Mr. A. Fauve.

Per *Tsinan*, str., for Townsville—Mr. E. Walker. For Brisbane—Miss Hozier. For Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. D. Lawrie, Miss Lawrie, Mrs. Seelenmeyer, Messrs. Geo. Holt and C. Kelly. For Melbourne—Mrs. Bois and 2 children, Miss Smith, Mr. and Mrs. B. Goldsmith, and Misses Dunn (2).

Per *Lightning*, str., for Singapore—Mr. Ho Wai Hing, Mrs. Ip Soy, Mrs. Yee Lan and 2 children, Messrs. R. Gutierrez and Leung Man Shan. For Penang—Mrs. J. Ahamoritz. For Calcutta—Messrs. C. J. Dalby, S. J. Perry, C. E. Guzdar, N. J. Subja, and Subadar Saif Ali Khan.

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